

**Yorkshire Naturalists' Union**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
REPORT**

**for  
1971**

**compiled by :  
John R. Mather**

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## **YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION**

### **Officers for 1971**

<i>Chairman:</i>	V. S. Crapnell, Halifax.
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	R. F. Dickens, Castleford.
<i>Recorders:</i>	
V.C.61 — East Riding	H. O. Bunce, 17 Orchard Road, Skidby, Cottingham. Tel. 849024.
V.C.62 — North Riding-East	R. H. Appleby, 38 Tennyson Ave., Scarborough. Tel. 63941.
V.C.63 — West Riding-South	R. J. Rhodes, 11 Langdale Drive, Scawthorpe, Doncaster.
V.C.64 — West Riding-North	John R. Mather, 44 Aspin Lane, Knaresborough. Tel. 2775.
V.C.65 — North Riding-West	P. J. Stead, 25 Minsterley Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough. Tel. 84945.

The Recorders, together with A. J. Wallis (Secretary) form the Reports Committee.

### **REPORT FOR 1971 — Compiled by John R. Mather**

The sequence followed in this report is that of the B.O.U. *Check List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* 1952. A national conference of local report editors in January 1971 unanimously agreed to the continued use of this order, subject to minor sequence changes, and not to accept the more recent sequences of some authors. This uniformity in county reports was desirable primarily for easy reference and until a generally accepted sequence of European birds is available I would respectfully suggest that local report editors in Yorkshire use the 1952 order.

The Reports Committee has dealt with a good many descriptions of rare birds during the year and all those appearing in this report have been considered by them. Regrettably however, several species which the Committee feels should be supported by a description, especially from little-known observers, are appearing in local reports without having been referred to the appropriate vice-county recorder. In some cases there is a records committee within the local society framework and we acknowledge the important part played at this level, but if all the records appearing in the County report are to be of a consistently accepted standard then they should at least be ratified at County level. Often, it is difficult to obtain details of a record some months after the event. It should not be beyond the most experienced of us to support our claims of rare or unusual birds with a written description of at least the circumstances under which the bird was seen.

Two new species were added to the County list in 1971, a Terek Sandpiper on 4th August at Scaling Dam and a Great Reed Warbler at Hornsea Mere in May and June. The weekend of 14th and 15th August was a memorable one for sea-watchers. All four species of Skua were represented, with spectacular numbers of Arctics. Good numbers of Manx and Sooty Shearwaters were also involved. The 5th September will be remembered by watchers at Fairburn Ings — especially those who have a penchant for raptures. Buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard, Honey Buzzard, Marsh Harrier and Hobby occurred — a unique assembly by British standards. I have mentioned in the classified list under Honey Buzzard that all buzzards away from the high ground of the north and west of the county, especially in June and September when a few are usually reported, should be critically examined; they need not all be *Buteo buteo*. It would also be of interest if details were supplied on the direction of flight of birds of prey if they are considered to be moving through a particular area and not simply hunting.

Several Flamingoes were reported in the county during the year, those which were seen adequately being of the race *P.r. chilensis* and obviously escaped birds. One flew south at Spurn on 26th June and two flew south on 9th August with one on the Humber mud from 22nd to 24th September and 26th to 29th October. One was at Swillington and Fairburn during June, one flew over a Knaresborough

gravel pit on 14th August and one was at Knotford Nook during November and December.

I have not included a full ringing recovery section for the same reasons given in the 1970 Report. The information received is not reflective of the activity in the county and is usually biased to well known ringing organisations, such as Spurn and the Ringing Stations whose results are published elsewhere. Some interesting recoveries are listed under the appropriate species in the classified list.

I consider it of value to list the organisations which have published local bird reports which are available to those wishing more details for a particular area.

Spurn Bird Observatory  
 Knaresborough Ringing Station  
 Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve  
 The Canada Goose Study Group of Yorkshire  
 Bradford Naturalists' Society  
 Doncaster and District Ornithological Society  
 Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society  
 Huddersfield Bird-watchers' Club  
 Leeds and District Bird-watchers' Club  
 Settle Bird Report  
 Teesmouth Bird Club (Quarterly)  
 Wharfedale Naturalists' Society  
 York Ornithological Club

Very many people contributed records to their vice-county recorders or to their local society recorders and I thank them all. Some do a lot of field work, others make only a few observations. To list them all would take a great deal of space and as this is an important consideration, I have given in full only those names which appear as initials in the classified list. I also thank my colleagues on the Reports Committee for their co-operation during the year

JOHN R. MATHER  
 Chairman, Reports Committee  
 September 1972.

### Classified List

The sequence used is that of the B.O.U. 1952 *Check List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* but the nomenclature is that of the most recent British list, *The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland* B.O.U. 1971.

#### 1. Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

One on the river at Settle from 15th to 17th December (BSh). One flew south off-shore at Spurn on 11th October.

#### 2. Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

One flew north off Hornsea on 3rd February and seven were on the sea there on 5th February (WFC). Two were on the sea at Spurn on 27th September and one flew south off-shore on 30th October. One in Bridlington Bay on 14th November (RL), and one in Scarborough Harbour on 29th December (RHA). One was on a small pool at Stourton, near Leeds from 2nd to 5th January.

#### 3. Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The largest numbers recorded were 103 off Atwick on 5th February (WFC), 32 in one party in Filey Bay on the 6th, 56 off Hornsea on 27th February and 64 the following day (CM). Spurn had its peak numbers of birds, identified only as *Gavia sp.* but no doubt *stellata*, between 13th and 23rd February with 56 on 18th as maximum. The species was recorded at Spurn in every month except March, May and December. Inland, one at Tophill Low Reservoir on 23rd and 24th November (DTI, TWU), one at Bolton on Swale gravel pit on 7th February (PJS), and one at Knotford Nook G.P. on 14th January.

#### 5. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

The breeding population was well up to strength with seven pairs in V.C.61; about five pairs in V.C.62; 15 pairs in V.C.63, only seven of which were known to be successful; 25-30 pairs in V.C.64 and three pairs in V.C.65, the most ever recorded there. Maximum numbers were recorded at Swillington with 37 on 31st

May, 51 on 4th and 10th June, 65 including ten juveniles on 31st July, 57 on 7th August and 29 on 4th and 5th September (JW).

Hornsea Mere also had large numbers with a maximum of 35 on 19th September (DTI). 45 were at Wintersett Reservoir on 25th April (JL). Recorded in smaller numbers from many other waters throughout the county in all months and on the coast where up to eight wintered in Bridlington Bay (RL), and smaller numbers were recorded at Filey, Grimston, Sewerby, Hornsea and Spurn.

#### 6. Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One in Bridlington Bay throughout January and up to 3rd February (RL), one on Hornsea Mere from 12th to 15th January (WFC), one on the sea off Hornsea on 1st and 3rd February with five there on 5th February (WFC). One in Scarborough Harbour on 1st and 2nd January and on 31st January (RHA, AJW). Singles off Filey Brig on 23rd and 25th October (RHA), in Bridlington Bay on 27th October (RL), on Hornsea Mere on 24th November (DTI), and Scaling Dam on 17th November (DGB) which bird was found dead on 28th November (BF).

Inland the species occurred at Wintersett Reservoir when two were seen on 18th September (SMP, JSW), and at Lindley Reservoir where one occurred from 13th to 27th November (FAW *et al.*).

#### 7. Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One on Hornsea Mere on 18th January (WFC), one in summer plumage at Wintersett Reservoir from 18th to 20th April (JL, DJS, PW), one at Fairburn Ings on 4th and 5th January (CW *et al.*) and one at Knotford Nook on 24th January.

#### 8. Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two on Hornsea Mere on 25th and 26th January (WFC), and one at Fairburn Ings on 28th February.

#### 9. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Records indicate a successful breeding year: 40 pairs from 14 waters in V.C.63 and good summer populations at many other waters in the county. Fairburn Ings had up to 30 birds from September to year end and Swillington Ings had maxima of 51 on 5th September and 40 on 2nd October (JW). Denaby Ings held between 30 and 50 during August and September. The canal at Spurn had up to seven daily during October and up to five during the first week of November with six on the 12th. Occurred singly and in small numbers on many other small waters and rivers.

#### 12. Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorrhoea*

One was watched for 1½ hours at Chelker Reservoir on 13th September (PMW), one found dead at West Tanfield on 2nd October (JC per LR), one watched at short range flying over the River Wharfe at Pool after a day of strong easterly winds on 7th November (LM), on which date one was over the Humber at Spurn and one was watched close to the pier wall at Scarborough on 20th November (FJT, RHA).

#### 16. Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

12 flew south together at Filey on 20th April (DIF), and seven were off Spurn on 22nd April, 14 at Spurn on 29th May with five on 3rd June and singles on 4th, 12th and 20th June. One flew south at Filey on the 12th and 12 flew north off Scarborough on the 19th June (IJP). Birds became more regular from early July with 16 north off Redcar on the 15th and 17 north off Filey on the 16th and 13 on the 17th. 38 passed Spurn on the 16th. A day of much sea passage on 14th August produced 43 birds flying north and 15 south off Scarborough between 1045 and 1300 hours (RHA) and 23 off Spurn. Smaller numbers, mostly single figures were seen on several dates from July to September off most coastal watch points. Spurn recorded 28 on 4th October, one on 5th and four on 13th and 14th October.

Birds showing characters of the Balearic Shearwater *P.p. mauretanicus* were seen off Filey, two south on 3rd July (RHA), one north off South Gare on 14th August and one north off Scarborough on 15th August (DIF).

#### 20. Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

One was feeding amongst a dense pack of Kittiwakes ca. 20 yards off shore at Scalby Mills, Scarborough on 6th September. It eventually flew out to sea for about 100 yards and settled on the water before being flushed by a fishing boat

and flying close inshore again before finally flying off south (DIF). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee. Two flew south off Filey Brig on 8th September (DIF). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

**21. Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus***

Spurn recorded birds on 19 dates between 8th August and 7th November, mainly singly but with seven on 12th September, nine on 14th, 48 on 25th, five on 26th September and 37 on 13th October. Seen off Filey Brig on eight dates from 15th August to 11th September with 13 flying north on first date (LGD) and eight north on 21st August (RHA) as maxima. Singles off Flamborough Head on 14th August (JA) and off Bridlington on 25th September (RL). 14 north and five south off Scarborough on 14th August between 1045 and 1300 hours (RHA) and at Scalby Mills, two miles further north a further 12 were seen at different times on the same date (DIF. CC). Six flew north off South Gare, Teesmouth also on the 14th (SCN). Singles flying north off Scarborough Marine Drive, Scalby Mills and Burniston on 15th August (IJP. RHA).

**26. Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

No large movements were recorded this year and 96 at Spurn on 5th June and 96 on 11th August were the maxima. 41 flying north off Scarborough on 19th June and 91 north there on 15th August were associated with movements of skuas, kittiwakes and gannets.

On 22nd April a bird landed on the cliff at Mappleton after surveying a 200 yard stretch for 15 minutes. This is the first recorded bird to actually land on the Holderness clay cliffs south of the Flamborough breeding sites (CM). One flew up to a nest site at Flamborough on 5th October, the first recorded October date for such a visit (HOB). Small numbers were on breeding sites at Flamborough on 28th November (HOB). Seven were at an inland cliff near Guisborough during May and June and an egg is stated to have been seen (DSS). One flew over South Cave on 3rd June (DBC) and one over Hornsea Mere on 21st August (DTI).

**27. Gannet *Sula bassana***

Spurn recorded the largest coastal movements with 130 on 20th August, 458 on 26th September and 330 on the 29th, and 117 on 25th October as the maxima. Smaller numbers passed almost daily during August, September and October. 180 flew north off Scarborough on 14th August (RHA).

The 'Jubilee Corner' colony at Bempton Cliffs has been closely studied for many years by H. O. Bunce and Miss Joan Fairhurst, they report as follows:—

21 young fledged from 33 nests. One of a pair at a new nest (unsuccessful) had been colour-ringed as a chick on the Bass Rock either in 1961 or 1966, probably the latter. This is the first indication of the origin of any Bempton breeder. A badly oiled adult was flying around the colony on 9th April. The first return of birds to the cliffs was between the 18th and 28th January and the final desertion was witnessed on 3rd October.

**28. Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

The Tees estuary had maximum counts of 45 on 4th April, 90 on 26th September, 63 on 17th October and 75 on 14th November. Recorded in all months at Filey Brig with a maximum of 15 on 11th September (RHA). Present throughout the year at Hornsea Mere with 56 on 10th January as maximum (WFC). Several birds watched flying north to the winter cliff roost at Flamborough were carrying metal rings on the left leg (MS).

Two were hanging on a gibbett at Hackness Lake on 9th June (FJT). The species was recorded singly at 16 other inland waters including Bretton Park, Wintersett Reservoir (2), Chelker Reservoir, Gouthwaite Reservoir and Semerwater. Four flew east at Fairburn Ings on 15th May.

**29. Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

16 were in Scarborough Harbour on 3rd January, 17 there on 31st January (AJW) and up to 15 during March (RHA FJT), 13 flew south off Filey Brig on 13th April (DIF). At Spurn, seven flew north and five south on 4th September, one flock of 19 flew south on the 5th and seen singly thereafter on several dates to 25th October. Seven were at Filey on 28th Decembr (RHA).

An adult which was feeding young just out of the nest at Flamborough on

8th August had been colour-ringed as a chick on the Farne Islands in 1967. This is the first proof of the origin of the Yorkshire breeding Shags (per HOB).

Another Farne Island bird ringed as a nestling in 1962 was found dead at Flamborough in July 1971 (per JESW).

One found alive in a quarry at Threshfield, Nr. Grassington on 11th August died next day. It was preserved by J. R. Mather and proved to be a second-year female in heavy body and wing moult with no body fat (per Miss S.B.). One flew east over Fairburn Ings on 2nd October.

### 30. Heron *Ardea cinerea*

This species seems to be increasing and records received were too numerous to list. Recorded throughout the year, mainly singly from river banks, streams, ponds, marshes and lakes in all parts of the county. Gouthwaite Reservoir attracted the largest numbers away from a known breeding colony with maxima of 16 in January, ten in February, eight in March, four in April, ten in July, 11 in August, seven in September, ten in October, 14 in November and 18 in December. 17 were at Wentworth Estate during July, and 19 were at Denton Park Lake on 12th December. A new colony was located in the Washburn Valley and young were seen in two of the four nests on 23rd May (PCQ). Farnley Park had maxima of 14 during February and again during July with from six to ten birds being present throughout the year.

### 31. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One at Fairburn Ings on 17th July circled the area before flying off to the east (CW *et al*). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

### 38. Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Seen singly at Hornsea Mere on several dates in the winter months. One at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 14th February (PJC, PAH *et al*). Singles at Fairburn Ings on 30th July and 25th September (CW *et al*). One at Barmby Marsh on 8th November (per RFD).

### 42. Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

An adult near Skeffling on 11th September (AC).

### 45. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Hornsea Mere held by far the largest numbers with 5,500 on 3rd January, 8,000 on 19th January and up to 3,000 in February. From 1,500 in September, numbers rose to 3,500 on 14th November falling to 1,900 at year end (DTI, WFC). Leighton Reservoir was the next most popular water with 3,000 on 25th January, 2,300 on 1st October and 2,200 on 18th December (PJC, FAV). The Lower Derwent floods held up to 500 during late January and early February and several other waters had from 200 to 500 birds during the winter months. Numbers in excess of this were 700 at Potteric Carr on 17th January (RDM), 700 at Castle Howard Lake in mid February (PH) with 600 there on 31st October (JHL), 975 at Fairburn on 9th October on which date there were 620 on Forcett Park Lake (RHA) and 800 at Balderhead on 16th November (CSW). 942 were in the Tees estuary on 19th September and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge had a maximum of 3,100 in January and 2,700 in February, numbers dropping to 630 by 8th March. In autumn, 640 on 29th August built up to 3,650 by 24th October and after a reduction to *ca.* 2,000 in November a rise to 3,200 on 24th December (ACh).

The Humber Estuary enquiry gave counts along the north bank from Spurn to Goole as follows:

2,960 on 17th January with 3,420 on the 31st.

1,680 in February and 210 in March. 1,660 on 29th August, 1,530 in September. 5,190 in October, 3,180 in November and 4,360 in December (per DBC).

### 46. Teal *Anas crecca*

Recorded from many areas particularly in September and October when birds are moving to their winter quarters. Flocks of up to 200 on suitable waters at this time were not unusual. Gouthwaite Reservoir had a maximum of 95 in June before a drop in numbers during July and August after which numbers built up to monthly maxima of 174 in September, 275 in October, 224 in November and 170 in December. 260 were at Stocks Reservoir on 9th January. The Lower Derwent floods held up to 1,000 during January and most of Feb-

ruary, birds quickly dispersing and only 'a few' left by 28th February (HOB).

Fairburn Ings had a maximum of 850 on 3rd January which number was only exceeded on the Derwent Floods, and at Hornsea Mere where the maxima were 1,200 on 10th January and 1,600 on the 19th falling off to 750 on 2nd February and 430 by the 13th. Only 14 remained by 20th March. Autumn maximum was 450 on 28th November (WFC. DTI).

An adult drake Green-winged Teal *A.c. carolinensis* appeared at Gouthwaite Reservoir for the third successive year. First seen on 28th March, it remained until 21st April and was seen by many people (AFGW. PJC. et al).

#### 47. Garganey *Anas querquedula*

The first was a ♂ at Low Ellers Carr on 20th March followed by three ♂♂ on the 28th March. Five ♂♂ on 22nd May was the maximum there and three pairs reared young (RDM. JP et al). Denaby Ings had two pairs by 25th April and on the 31st August ca. 25 were flushed in several small parties (MGB. GMD. DH). Wintersett Reservoir had a pair on 5th and 6th April and two were there on 18th September (MT. PBW. et al). One at Broomhill Flash on 9th May (JIM). Four at Birkin on 18th April (BW) and at Fairburn Ings the species was present from 10th April (four) until the last on 26th September. Seven on 24th July was the maximum (CW et al). One at Swillington Ings on 6th June (JW) and a pair was on the River Hull at Hempholme on 2nd June. Hornsea Mere had one in June and one on 22nd August (DTI. SGW). Coatham Marsh on Teeside had eight on 7th August, 12 on 17th, 23 on 25th and ten on the 4th September (SCN. WN). Two were at South Gare on 10th September and three were on Kilnsea Lagoons on 30th September (LS). One flew south at Spurn on 13th September.

#### 48. Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

A drake at Wintersett Reservoir on 8th May (JL), and a drake at Fairburn Ings from 15th May until 13th June (CW. JDP. PTT et al). Both accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee. These are the second and third records for Yorkshire, the first being a drake at Wheldrake Ings from 26th April to 3rd May, 1967.

#### 49. Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Recorded in all months at Hornsea Mere and Fairburn Ings. At Hornsea the maxima were 43 on 17th January, 28 in February, with smaller numbers thereafter until August with 81 on 29th, 139 on 5th September, 50 on 24th October and 156 on 31st October. 112 on 24th December. One pair bred and were seen with three young (DTI). Fairburn Ings had smaller numbers and the autumn build up which started in early September reached a maximum of 42 on 24th October (CW. et al).

Elsewhere the species was recorded in small numbers from 11 other waters in the county with from one to six birds involved. Two flew south offshore at Spurn on 30th October.

#### 50. Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Recorded from many waters throughout the county but mainly in small numbers not exceeding 50 birds except at the following places:- 100 at Settle on 18th February (BSh), 152 at Stocks Reservoir on 21st February, 122 at South Gare on 15th September and 226 flying north there on 28th September (SCN). 130 on Scaling Dam on 17th October (TBR) and 110 at Malham Tarn on 11th December. Vice-county 61 held the largest populations with up to 670 at Hornsea Mere in January, 480 on 12th February and smaller numbers to end of March. 116 on 19th September was the first autumn flock and 272 on 7th November and 465 on 12th December were maxima at year end. Six birds stayed during May and June with seven in July and eight on 8th August (DTI).

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge held 1,200 on 20th February and 1,020 on 22nd and 25th February. At the end of the year, 1,100 on 23rd and 28th November were the maxima (ACh).

The Lower Derwent floods attracted spectacular numbers with 2,500 on 10th January, 3,000 on 17th January, 3,500 on 7th February, 3,000 on 21st February, 1,000 on 28th February and numbers falling to 25 by 11th April (HOB). 1,000 were there on 11th December (GS). Single birds were seen in June at Lockwood Beck Reservoir (DGB) and Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with two at Fairburn Ings during June and early July and two at Gouthwaite Reservoir in mid-June. In vice-county 65, about 20 pairs bred and over 40 young were reared (PJS. CSW).

**52. Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Small numbers, involving one to six birds, occurred on several waters throughout the county mainly in the autumn and winter months. The Lower Derwent floods attracted large numbers with 60 on 10th and 17th January and 75 on 7th February whereafter numbers fell quickly and only one remained by the 28th (HOB). Hornsea Mere had 23 on 22nd January (WFC), and 23 on 24th and 31st October as maxima (DTI). 16 were at Thruscross Reservoir on 3rd January (FAW), and nine were at Gouthwaite Reservoir on the 10th.

**53. Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Recorded in small numbers from many waters, mainly at times of passage, March and April and August to October. 18 at Lindley Reservoir on 8th and 10th October, 130 at Low Ellers Carr from 14th to 16th October and 275 at Fairburn Ings on 17th October were probably all part of one influx.

Hornsea Mere held between 45 and 85 during January and up to 18th February, numbers falling thereafter to four by 13th March (WFC. DTI). 30 on 8th August, 38 on 26th September, 80 on 24th October, 189 on 7th November and 60 on 5th December were the year-ends monthly maxima (DTI). 20 were on the Lower Derwent Floods on 7th February (HOB).

**54. Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

A ♀ at Lindley Reservoir on 19th and 25th September (SJB. PME. MVB), and a ♀ at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 25th December (PJC). Published with the 'escape' proviso.

**55. Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Spurn recorded the only large numbers with 100 off the 'Point' on 15th January as an isolated peak. Ten on the Humber on 17th February was the only other figure in excess of four during January and February and in autumn only small numbers seen flying offshore with no more than four on any one day. 15 at Sunk Island on 31st January (BSP) and eight off Hornsea on 4th February (WFC) were the only other double figures reported. Hornsea Mere had from one to eight birds on most days from 11th January to 19th February (when observations stopped) (WFC). Waters away from the coast provided several records with one ♀ at Wintersett Reservoir on 3rd January and two on 10th January (DJS), one ♂ at Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pit on 27th March (PJS. BJC), one ♂ at Southfield Reservoir on 9th April (RJR), a ♀ at Newmiller Dam on 11th April and from 20th July to 11th September (PS). A ♀ at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 23rd and 24th October (NL. PB). One stayed at Fairburn Ings from 9th October to year end. Single ♀ ♀ or immatures were at Lindley Reservoir on 16th July (PJC), 12th September (LGD), 27th October (PJC) and 6th November (FAW). One on Swinsty Reservoir on 18th November (GTF). A ♀ or immature at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 15th, 17th and 20th October with three there on 16th and 30th (PJC. FAW *et al.*).

**56. Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

58 breeding pairs were reported; four in V.C.61, four in V.C.62, 12 in V.C.65, at least 32 (not including Fairburn Ings) in V.C.64 and six in V.C.65. Several waters throughout the county held up to 100 birds during most months except in May and June. The largest concentrations were at Gouthwaite Reservoir with 85 by 4th July and an increase to 139 by the 25th (the largest number ever recorded for this water), 130 remained into early August and 118 by 21st August whereafter birds dispersed; Fairburn Ings with 257 on 14th November; Hornsea Mere had maxima of 600 on 2nd January, 850 on 25th January, 900 on 1st February, 694 in March, 470 in April, 180 in May, 60 in June, 104 in July, 157 in August, 461 in September, 880 in October, 512 in November and 400 at year end (WFC. DTI). 150 at Tophill Low Reservoir on 3rd January, 162 on 14th February, 210 on 14th November and 160 in December were the water's maxima. 153 at Malham Tarn on 28th July and 124 on 22nd September. A duckling ringed in July 1969 in Holland was found dead at Hornsea Mere on 11th April 1970 (per JESW).

**57. Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Several large gatherings reported from the main waters. Fairburn, 307 on 19th September; Swillington Ings, 201 on 10th July; Gouthwaite, 90 in October; Lindley Reservoir, 143 on 26th September; Wentworth Lake, 123 on 10th October; Wintersett Reservoir, 120 on 21st November; Hornsea Mere, 650 on 2nd January, 1,100 on 19th January, 650 on 13th February, up to 200 during March to August, 337 on 12th September, 900 on 24th October, 500 on 28th November and 367 on 24th December. Tophill Low Reservoir had 150 on 3rd January and 120 on 14th February. Maxima only shown.

**58. Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

Four flew east over Fairburn Ings on 2nd May (PTT), and a ♀ at Bretton Park from 7th to 27th November (JED. RLB). One at Eccup Reservoir on 24th January. Commonly kept in collections and occurrences are published with the 'escape' proviso.

**60. Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

The species did not exceed 25 on any water except the following:— Gouthwaite Reservoir where 30 occurred on 9th April and in the south-east where Hornsea Mere had from 170 in January to 358 on 20th March and 214 on 10th April falling to 44 by 1st May, 133 on 14th November and 120 on 24th December (WFC. DTI), Tophill Low Reservoir had 50 on 3rd January, 115 on 14th February and 120 on 14th November, 250 at Welton Water on 28th February (SGW). 36 were in Bridlington Bay on 7th November.

A ♂ was at Swillington Ings from 2nd June to 9th October (JW) and there was a ♂ at Swinsty Reservoir from 4th to 7th July and a there from 13th July to 31st August. A ♀ summered at Gouthwaite Reservoir and was present from 29th May to 24th September.

**61. Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

14 flew south off Hornsea on 1st February (WFC), and singles were in the Tees Bay and on Lockwood Beck Reservoir in January, on Scaling Dam from 14th February to 27th March (PJS. JL *et al*) and on 22nd April (DGB). Two at South Gare on 9th September, one there on 23rd October, one on New Marske Reservoir on 10th and 20th November (DGB), one at Bridlington on 30th November (RL) and one flew north at Spurn on 12th September. Hornsea Mere had one on five dates in January with two on the 31st (WFC). A ♀ on Wentworth Lake on 3rd January had been there since 15th November 1970 (JIM). A ♂ at Deer Hill Reservoir from 2nd to 5th May (NL. JML).

**62. Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

From one to six birds occurred off Redcar, South Gare, Filey, Hornsea and Spurn from January to March and August to year end. Bridlington Bay attracted 20 on 31st October, 10 on 2nd November and 20 on 28th November at maxima (RL).

**64. Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Occurred on the coast in the usual numbers, up to 195 in one day at Spurn in October being the maximum. Most records were from August to October. Inland the species was recorded at several waters; Blackmoorfoot Reservoir had one on 27th February (when there was one at Gouthwaite Reservoir), four on 10th July and seven on 16th September (JED *et al*). Wintersett Reservoir had one on 25th March and seven on 15th April (MT. PBW). Bretton Park had three on 14th April (JM). July was the month during which most birds occurred inland when Fairburn (one on 24th), Fewston Reservoir, Swinsty Reservoir, and Gouthwaite Reservoir recorded passage. One ♂ at Fewston on 1st July (PJC), six at Swinsty Reservoir on 10th July (DA), 40 at Gouthwaite on 4th July (PJQ) and nine on 23rd July (AFGW). Two more records in August with one at Lindley Reservoir on 13th and one at Knotford Nook on 17th.

**67. Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

From one to eight birds, mainly up to three, occurred off the coast from Teesmouth to Spurn in all months up to November when more birds appeared: Nine at Filey on 13th November, 11 at Hornsea on 21st, 39 at Bridlington on 28th on which date there were 35 at Sewerby, 27 at the latter on 12th December and up to 30 there to year end (RL). At Wintersett Reservoir an exceptional flock

of 20 appeared on 21st November, coinciding with the coastal increase, 15 of which departed next day. The remaining five stayed until 4th December after which one stayed to year end. Three of these birds moved to nearby Newmiller Dam on 5th December and stayed until 26th (Miss JH. RPS. JAB. PS *et al*). This is the largest number ever recorded inland in Yorkshire.

#### 69. Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

From one to three at several coastal localities from January to May and July to year-end. Six at Bempton on 24th July and ten off Bridlington on 26th October were the maxima reported. Occurred inland at Gouthwaite Reservoir where there was one in January, a pair on 9th April, seven on 11th September and one on 31st October, and at Fairburn Ings where one was present on 19th January. A female with 14 ducklings was seen at a water in the north-west.

#### 70. Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Present in small numbers at several waters from January to April and October to year end. Gouthwaite Reservoir had a maxima of twelve in January, 28 at Chelker Reservoir on 2nd January, 14 at Thruscross Reservoir on 9th January, 16 at Lindley Reservoir on 23rd January, 20 at Swinsty Reservoir on 8th February and 17 there on 18th December. Fairburn Ings recorded a maximum of 23 on 15th February. 71 at Leighton Reservoir on 7th February was the highest number ever recorded in V.C.65. 20 were there on 12th December and 14 at Semerwater on 9th March. Stocks Reservoir had maxima of 35 on 9th January and 37 on 11th December and at Eccup Reservoir 30 on 17th March was the spring maximum after ten in January and 16 in February. At the year end 15 on 12th December was maximum.

At Hornsea Mere there were maxima of 43 on 2nd January, 48 on 1st February, 54 on 3rd February and 66 on 13th March. 24 on 24th December was maxima at year end.

In 1970 four broods were found on the R. Tees above Barnard Castle and 1971 had five broods on the same stretch. Breeding was also proved for the first time on the R. Dee near Sedbergh.

#### 71. Smew *Mergus albellus*

One ♀ at Hornsea Mere on 12th and 22nd January with two on 15th (WFC), one ♀ at Lockwood Beck Reservoir on 19th January (AB), single ♂♂ at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 1st January and 21st December (JED. PB *et al*), a ♀ at JAlmholme from 13th December 1970 was joined by a ♂ on 27th January and both remained until 7th April. A ♀ on 31st October was joined by a ♂ on 12th December both birds remaining to year end (JP. RJR. RAM). A ♂ at Fairburn Ings from 1st to 23rd January and a ♀ from 28th November to 5th December (CW. JDP. FAW). A ♀ at Lindley Reservoir from 13th November to 30th December (FAW. PJC. GTF *et al*).

#### 73. Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Small numbers recorded at several inland localities, mainly from January to April and September to year end. A pair stayed at Fairburn Ings throughout the summer. 38 there on 4th September and 39 on the 5th were maxima inland.

At Spurn, a sudden increase in the Humber population to 321 on 1st November dispersed just as quickly. Other coastal maxima were 325 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 29th August, 500 from Hessle to Ferriby on 29th May, 250 at Brough on 29th June, 224 at Cherry Cob Sands on 10th October and 226 from Easington to Patrington Haven on 11th December. The 'Estuaries Enquiry' showed a maximum monthly count of 1,124 on 10th October.

#### 75. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Small numbers occurred at several places, some staying through the summer. From their behaviour it is more than likely that most of the 'singles' and 'pairs' associating with Canada Geese and some of the small skeins down at waters in the summer months originally came from artificial sources. Hornsea Mere recorded from one to 16 birds from 7th January to 21st November, two remaining throughout June and July after 12 on 29th May and 13 returned on 16th August. 11 at Scaling Dam on 14th March (DSS), 12 at Brearton, Nr. Knaresborough and later at Farnham G.P. on 12th January (FS *et al*). 53 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 5th October was the only large skein reported (ACh).

**76. White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons***

Two at Hornsea Mere from 18th to 25th January and from 2nd February on five dates to 10th April (WFC). One at Grimston on 7th April. 21 at Sunk Island on 31st January (BSP). Two adults at Leighton Reservoir on 23rd January and an immature on 6th November (PJC). 41 flew north-east over Norton, V.C.63 on 9th December (GPM).

**78. Pink-footed Goose *Anser fabilis brachyrhynchus***

Skeins of 50 to 250 recorded over central Yorkshire in January, February and March and again in November and December. Much movement on 5th December with four skeins totalling 530 birds in the Doncaster area and at Wintersett Reservoir coincided with the influx on the Humber Refuge in early December (see below).

The Humber Refuge held maxima in the early months of 960 on 8th January and 840 on 14th February. 38 on 19th September were the first to return and a build-up to 1,650 on 14th October as the lowest maximum ever recorded. Only 45 remained by 10th November and none during mid-November followed by an influx from 32 on 28th November to 970 on 24th December and a peak of 2,470 on 27th December, 740 remaining to year end (ACh).

A Bean Goose *A.f. fabilis*, was at Leighton Reservoir on 9th and 10th January (PJC).

**79. Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens***

A flock of nine appeared at Whitby on 24th June and stayed for several hours before moving on. Five were white and four were blue phase, the latter phase only occurring in the Lesser Snow Goose *A.c. caerulescens*. Later the same day, eight Snow Geese (four white and four blue phase) were seen flying north off Whitburn, Co. Durham. On the 17th June, a white phase was seen at Farnham G.P. near Knaresborough and stayed to moult with a small party of Canada Geese. It was flightless by 28th June and after the moult, moved about the area and was seen on several dates in August and September as well as at Ripley Lake on 17th August and 12th October and later at Harewood House (JRM, RE, AFGW *et al*). The origin of these birds is of course suspect and they are published with the 'escape' proviso.

**80. Brent Goose *Branta bernicla***

Four flew north at Hornsea Mere on 19th January (WFC), ten flying north off Filey Brig on 14th October were 'dark-breasted' (CC), one south off Filey on 27th October was 'pale-breasted' (CC). At Spurn, 19 were on the Humber on 9th February, one flew north on 27th March, five flew north on 4th October, two were on the Humber and three flew south-east on the 5th, three flew north on 13th, 44 recorded on 26th, eight on 27th and four on 28th and 29th. One on 7th November, one flying south on 8th and 20 flying south on 13th.

**81. Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

18 flying north at Hornsea Mere on 19th January (WFC). Two flew south-east over Gouthwaite Reservoir on 24th September (PJC), one came in from the west at Spurn on 25th September and one was at Swillington Ings on the 26th, the latter bird appeared rather tame (JW). Three were on Leighton Reservoir on 9th and 10th January (PJC). Three were flying around Flamingo Park Zoo in March which were said to be not part of the collection (PJS). One at Leighton Reservoir from 3rd October to the year end (PJC). Two at Brompton-on-Swale G.P. from October 1971 to May 1972 (PJS, VFB). The origin of some of these birds, except the 18 at Hornsea, must be in some doubt.

**85. Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus***

Occurrences followed the usual pattern: small numbers at several waters throughout the county with maxima of 15 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 23rd January (ACh), and 35 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd January and 24 in the Tees estuary on 9th January. Five flew west off the sea at Grimston on 17th October and one was at Knotford Nook G.P. on 18th October. 24th October was the day of main arrival with five at Ilton Reservoir, five at Gouthwaite Reservoir, ten at Fairburn Ings and four at Bretton Park. 16 at Semerwater on 28th December was the highest number reported at the year end. One stayed at Treeton Reservoir from 9th April to 11th September.

86. **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus bewickii*

The Lower Derwent Floods attracted 43 on 10th January, 152 on 17th January, 45 at the end of January, 83 on 7th and 14th February and 36 on 7th March. 22 were present on 28th November and 37 on 11th December (HOB. JF *et al*). 32 on the Humber at Kilnsea on 20th January, 67 Nr. Patrington on 6th February and 63 at Hornsea Mere on 25th January were the coastal maxima, smaller numbers occurring at other coastal areas throughout January and February. Maxima inland, apart from the Lower Derwent, were 63 over Airedale High School on 7th January (RFD). 49 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th January (JED), 32 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on 10th January, and 35 Nr. Bawtry on 29th January (RAF).

Smaller numbers occurred at several other waters, mainly during January when there was obviously much movement of birds into the county. At the year end small numbers occurred mainly in November and no more than five birds seen except 20 on the R. Ure at Semerwater on 21st December (DTM).

89. **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

The bird seen at Gouthwaite Reservoir in December 1971 was present on 15th, 16th, 17th, 24th and 25th January, 6th and 7th February and 7th March (PJC. PAH. FAW *et al*).

91. **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Eight young reared from nests in the Sedbergh area. Birds were reported frequently from the higher ground in the north-west mainly in the winter months. Several birds were recorded in September including one at Grimston, on the coast on 19th (SGW). Thorne Moor on 5th (ML) and Fairburn Ings on 5th. Two frequented the Washburn Valley near Lindley Reservoir during February and March (LGD. ESS. FAW). Four at Gouthwaite on 11th October (PJC *et al*) was maximum seen together. One flew south at Filey Brig on 13th November (RHA. CC. FJT). Single buzzards reported from Sprotborough Flash on 1st June, soaring over York on 20th June and near Kirby Moorside on 21st June were of interest and birds at this time of year and in September should be critically examined; Honey Buzzard is a possibility.

92. **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

One flew west at Fairburn Ings on 5th September (PTT. CW), one was seen at Boulby, Nr. Staithes on 9th September (BJC), and one was at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 11th September (PJC. PAH. PVI).

93. **Sparrow Hawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Continues to increase, albeit slowly. Records were mainly of single birds and mainly from January to April and from July to year end. 12 sightings in V.C.61, about 25 in V.C.62 where three pairs are known to have bred, 19 in V.C.63, over 80 in V.C.64 where at least four pairs were proved to breed successfully and 'several' sightings in V.C.65 where two broods were successfully reared (SS). At Spurn, one passed on 26th March, one on 10th April, five on 16th April, singles on 5th, 7th, 8th and 9th May, two on 5th October and one on 26th October.

94. **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

One at Lindley Reservoir on 17th March (PJC) and one mobbing a ♀ Hen Harrier at Leighton Reservoir on 3rd December (PAH. DGL).

98. **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

One flew north-west over Fairburn Ings on 5th September (PTT).

99. **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A single ♀ at Hornsea Mere on four dates in April and May and again in mid-September (DTI). A ♂ came in from the sea and flew north at Grimston on 28th April (AWW) and one flew south offshore at Spurn on 8th May. One was seen at Roseberry Topping on 9th April (AFD) and one was near Stokesley on 30th April (DL). One near Thorne on 18th July, 29th August and 5th September (SJ. ML *et al*). One was mobbed by a Hobby at Fairburn Ings on 8th May and one flew west on 5th September -a day of much raptor passage at this locality.

100. **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

48 sightings of single birds, mainly in V.C.64, and mostly from January to

March and October to year end. One came in off the sea and flew south-west at Spurn on 14th September. Breeding was proved at one locality in the mid-west.

**102. Montague's Harrier *Circus pygargus***

A ♂ and 2 ♀♀ were seen in Wharfedale on 3rd April (MVB), a pair on 10th and 15th May, a ♂ only until 5th June and a ♀ seen from 30th June to 3rd July (FAW. PS). One ♂ at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 7th August (PJC. FAW *et al*).

A ♂ flew south at Spurn on 16th May and a ♂ was at Brough on 19th May (SGW).

**103. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

One flew south at Spurn on 16th April, one near Driffield on 25th April (HOB), one flew south over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 9th May (PB) and one seen north of York in May. One fishing at Paythorne Bridge, Nr. Gisburn on 18th June (RF).

Singles at Spurn on 24th August, 30th August and 5th September. One in the Bradfield area, with two seen together on two dates, regularly fished Dam Flask Reservoir between 25th August and 15th September (HB. DA. JWA). One at Fairburn Ings on 19th September and one flew south-south-west over Knaresborough on 23rd September (PVI).

**104. Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

One at Fairburn Ings on 6th May (CW. PTT) and one on 5th September (CW *et al*). One on Coatham Marsh on 28th June (SCN). One flew south at Spurn on 31st July and one flew south there on 26th August.

**105. Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

Records from each vice-county were as follows:- V.C.61: one at Spurn on 6th November and one flying south there on 8th November, one at Hornsea on 4th and 5th January (WFC), one at Bempton on 29th August (HOB. JF), one at Filey Brig on 30th October (RHA. CC), and one at Brough Salting on 7th November (DBC. ACh); V.C.62: no records; V.C.63 one on Thorne Moor on 1st August (ML. WHP. SOK) and one at Ousefleet on 14th November (RH. FG. AS); V.C.64: one near Settle on 20th January (BSh), one at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 24th January (PJC. DJS), one on 20th February and one on 11th October (PJC. PAH *et al*), one near Loftus on 30th October (BSP), one at Norwood Edge on 13th November (FAW), one near Lindley Reservoir on 19th November (PJC) and one at Fairburn Ings on 16th May (CW *et al*). The ♀ which wintered near Arthington and roosted on the viaduct there from December 1969 to March 1970 and again in the 1970/71 winter remained until 4th April and returned by 29th October to year end. V.C.65: One at Ilton on 16th June (PY) and one on Gunnerside Gill on 1st August (BSU. SR). No breeding was reported.

**107. Merlin *Falco columbarius***

Seen on many occasions throughout the county mostly single birds and mainly from January to April and August to year end. V.C.64 had the most birds and also one pair bred in Upper Nidderdale (AFGW). A pair seen on Barden Moor during the summer but breeding not proved (FAW). Three pairs bred in V.C.65 (SS. PJC. BWF).

**110. Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

Continues to do well and reported everywhere in the county with successful breeding throughout. Late August concentrations were reported from Settle when seven were hunting over one marsh on 30th, and at Gouthwaite Reservoir where up to 12 were seen together on the same date (BSh. AFGW). Six were hovering together at Almholme on 19th August. Six flew south at Grimston on 19th September and nine flew south on 10th October (SGW). Between four and ten were at Spurn from 7th August to month end and eight on 1st and 7th September. Up to eight were along the peninsula on several dates up to 6th November.

**111. Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus***

A good breeding season reported from all moors. 920 brace were shot on Bingley, Burley and Hawksworth moors (JWM).

*Amendment to the 1970 Report:* Delete '108 in low lying fields at Rathmell on 24th July (BSh)'.

113. Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

Ten ♂♂ and one ♀ at a lek at Tor Hill, Halifax on 1st May (ADW. IM). Three near Arncliffe on 17th June (DMM), and a nest with ten eggs found near Foxup on 19th June (MVB). Three ♂♂ and one ♀ on Great Whernside on 17th July (FAW). Five ♂♂ near Dentdale on 31st October (ECS). Maximum count near Settle was nine on 12th January (BSh). 37 ♂♂ together at Wemmergill, Nr. Selsett Reservoir on 21st February (CSW). Maximum at the Tan Hill lek was ten on 27th March with two more nearby (PJS). Nine ♂♂ near Semerwater on 4th March and a nest with eggs found in the area later in the year (DTM). Bred near Richmond (BWF). One ♀ at Ilton on 1st and 3rd March (PY).

115. Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Reports suggest a good season with increases in several areas. Wharfedale had its first breeding record when a nest with 14 eggs, and two eggs of Common Partridge, was found on 21st June (GP). 14 pairs bred between Strensall and Malton. Occurred at Swillington Ings during July to October with six on 10th October as maximum (JW). Spurn had more records than for some years with birds recorded regularly from 13th March to end of October. One to six during March to June, one to two in July with a family party on 26th which was regularly seen during August. Ten on 5th October and smaller numbers to year end.

117. Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One calling near Dewsbury on 6th June and one seen and heard on Eccup Moor on 10th June (SJK). Seen and heard on 27th and 29th June and again from 25th to 28th July near Sheriff Hutton (AJW. PD. IN). One calling from standing barley at Swillington on 10th July (JW). One flushed at Wath Ings on 7th August (DTS) and five at Hornsea Mere at the beginning of August (DTI).

119. Crane *Grus grus*

*Addition to 1970 Report:* One flying over Thorne Moor on 8th August 1970 (SLJ) was probably the one seen flying east over Fairburn Ings on the 6th.

120. Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Widely reported from all suitable localities. Maxima seen were 13 at Potteric Carr on 6th January and 11 on 14th October (RDM. IJI) and 35 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd January (CW *et al.*).

121. Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

One seen at Fairburn Ings from 30th August to 31st October (CW. PTT *et al.*).

125. Corncrake *Crex crex*

Recorded only from V.C.64 with one calling at Goldsborough at the end of May, one at Nun Appleton West Ings during the summer, one at Bradley, near Skipton from 5th to 25th June (PMW), and one to two calling near Settle from 13th June to 1st July (BSh).

126. Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

One ringed at Hornsea Mere as a first-year bird on 6th November 1970 was shot at Flavenskjold in Denmark on 27th September 1971 (JESW). The leucistic bird which was at Knotford Nook in 1970 was still present in April.

127. Coot *Fulica atra*

Up to 200 recorded on several waters during January to March and from August to year end with maxima of 900 at Fairburn Ings and at Hornsea Mere; 1,300 on 28th January, 1,100 on 14th February and numbers falling to 250 by 8th May. 575 during June and July, 1,020 on 12th September, 1,643 on 31st October, 2,435 on 28th November and 3,348 on 12th December (WFC. DTI). About 200 pairs bred on the Mere. 300 were on Tophill Low Reservoir on 14th November and at Knotford Nook G.P., 300 on 13th January (PJC), and 358 on 5th December (LGD. ESS). Malham Tarn had 395 on 22nd September, 440 on 23rd November and 460 on 18th December.

131. Oyster Catcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Numbers at Spurn in the early months were much lower than in 1970; 110 on 9th January, 107 on 19th February, 120 on 4th March and 119 on 11th April, otherwise only double and occasional single figures. Numbers increased in August to 100 by mid-month and to 160 by mid-September. Maxima at year end were

420 on 29th October, 1,000 on 24th November and 800 on 28th December. Southward passage offshore was noted as usual from late June with a peak during mid-August when 436 passed on the 8th, 695 on the 14th and 315 on the 22nd. Birds were noted coming in from the sea with 154 on 29th July, 260 on 22nd August and smaller numbers on other dates during this period. Other coastal maxima were 537 in the Tees Estuary on 14th November and 350 at Redcar on 23rd October (GWF). A leucistic bird occurred at Redcar from January to March and again in April and September and one at South Gare on 28th December was presumably the same bird (WN, DGB).

### 133. Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Several flocks (January to March and October to December) of between 100 and 1,000 birds reported from several places with the largest at Wintersett Reservoir, Thryborough Reservoir, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Gouthwaite Reservoir, Knaresborough R.S., Denton, Knotford Nook, Swillington and Fairburn Ings. Winter flocks in excess of 2,000 were 4,000 at Wentworth Estate on 3rd January (JIM), 2,000 at Fishlake on 28th February (AGP), 2,400 on Broomfleet Island on 3rd November (ACh), and 3,000 at Leathley on 26th December (LM). The largest post-breeding assemblies reported were 400 at Birkin on 12th July and 450 on 11th August, 750 at Chelker Reservoir on 28th July and during August; 500 at Menwith Hill, 1,000 at Darley, 1,200 at Gouthwaite Reservoir, 600 at Adwick-le-Street, 600 at Swillington, 1,400 at Castle Howard and 800 at Marley.

336 flew north-west in 1½ hours at South Gare on 27th October (SCN) and 146 flew north-west at Spurn on the 26th.

### 134. Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Two pairs bred in gravel pits near Catterick. A pair laid in a turnip field, one mile from the sea north of Bridlington (AJW). One pair laid eggs but failed to hatch them and one pair were displaying at another site on the Holderness coast. Eight pairs nested at Spurn. Passage inland occurred from March to September with two at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 27th and 28th February. Low numbers mainly involved, up to eight, with 14 at Birkin on 21st May and 17 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 10th August as maxima except for June which month produced a heavy passage of birds some of which were probably of the Arctic form. Gouthwaite Reservoir had the most birds with 38 on the 7th, 13 remaining by the 12th and seven on the 14th, 12 at Fairburn Ings on 12th, two at Swinsty Reservoir on 18th, eight at Pollington on 13th, three at Birkin on the 5th and singles at three other places during the month.

Coastal maxima were 221 at Spurn on 30th August and 100 on 11th September, 275 at Brough on 19th May (SGW), 263 in the Tees Estuary on 19th September, 153 on 17th October and 138 on 14th November.

### 135. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

A total of 37 pairs proved breeding in the county is probably low and it is hoped the Research Committee's enquiry into this species in 1972 will bring the situation up to date. The results will be published separately in *The Naturalist*.

### 136. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One at Fairburn Ings on 8th May flew off to the east (PTT, CW).

### 139. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

The 'Estuaries Enquiry' on the north shore of the Humber from Spurn to Goole showed a maximum of 102 on 28th February (DBC). 70 on Broomfleet Island on 18th February (ACh).

Inland, one occurred at Bubwith Ings on 10th January (AD), one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 10th to 13th September (JED *et al*), one at Redmires Dam on 27th September (AF-T) and one at Fairburn Ings on 12th September with two on 28th November.

### 140. Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

The usual winter flocks of up to 500 reported from several areas with some birds showing characters of the Northern race before the flocks dispersed in April. Largest numbers reported were 1,100 at Wigglesworth on 23rd October (GWP), 1,000 at Swillington Ings in late November and early December (JW), and the Estuary Enquiry counts showed maxima of 940 on 28th February and 1,160 on 10th October (DBC).

142. Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*

A party of six on arable land at Lissett on 9th May (JF, HOB, CV), one in a beet field at Cawood on 25th May (PL) and two on Blubberhouses Moor on 22nd May (FAW). At Spurn, singles occurred on 15th August, 17th to 19th August (considered to be a different bird) and on 23rd August.

143. Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Spurn maxima were 104 on 19th February and 160 on 28th, 200 on 4th March, 100 on 17th and 23rd April and 120 from 18th to 20th, 112 on 1st May and 220 on 8th. Autumn maxima were 300 on 19th August, 230 on 6th and 17th September, 280 on 2nd October, 310 on 5th and 100 on 15th with up to 120 to year end. Nowhere else were these numbers equalled and other coastal counts were up to 35 at Filey Brig during January to March and July to December (RHA), 50 on the harbour wall at Bridlington on 15th March and up to 80 on 18th November. South Gare had 41 on 4th April, 43 on 11th August and 119 on 23rd August (GLC). Inland records came from six waters with one at Wintersett Reservoir on 28th April (PBW), one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 4th August (JML, SNA) and two flew west there on 21st August (MLD). One at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 6th February (PJC) and one in summer plumage on 28th July (DGL). One at Swillington Ings on 2nd June (JW) and one at Fairburn on single dates in May and August (CW *et al.*).

145. Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

The largest concentrations noted were 150 at Potteric Carr on 16th January (RDM), 90 at Adwick-le-Street on 11th March and 80 on 27th October (RA), 80 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 10th December. 100 at Rathmell, Nr. Settle on 23rd October (FAW) and at Gouthwaite Reservoir autumn numbers built up to 114 by 25th August and a second peak occurred in September with 66 on the 24th increasing to 100 by 3rd October (AFGW *et al.*). About 100 were at Knostrop S.F. during December, 63 were on Coatham Marsh on 26th August (SCN).

Birds were observed flying in off the sea at Spurn, with two on 25th July, three on 22nd August and one on 13th September.

147. Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minima*

Recorded from January to April and from September to year end at many places inland and on the coast with the peak numbers occurring during October and November. One at Hornsea Mere on 15th August was well in advance of the next at Coatham Marsh on 4th September. Single birds mainly reported but more birds than usual were reported from some areas. Eight at Adwick-le-Street on 6th February (RA) was maximum in the early months. Eight at Hornsea Mere on 19th October (DTI), four at Wintersett Reservoir on 25th October (PS), ten at Wath Ings on 7th November (DJS), five at Warmworth S.F. on 27th November (BMB) and five at Hay-a-Park G.P. Nr. Knaresborough on 13th November (RE). One came in off the sea at Spurn on 31st October.

150. Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Gouthwaite Reservoir had the usual wintering flock which had maxima of 60 in January and 85 in February. 78 there in September were passage birds, the winter flock comprising of 32 in October, 53 in November and 42 in December (AFGW *et al.*). Other inland winter flocks were 50 near Fellbeck on 10th November (MW), 60 on Arnside on 16th January (GWP), 100 at Tarn Moss Malham on 27th March were no doubt returning birds (FAW). Rathmell Bottoms held its usual large flock which numbered 600 on 23rd October (BSh, IAH, FAW). Coastal concentrations were at their peak in July and August with 1,200 at Cherry Cob on 29th August (BSP), 707 in the Tees Estuary on 22nd August and the maximum count in the Estuaries Enquiry from Spurn to Goole was 1,420 on 29th August (per DBC).

151. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Coastal passage in spring was noted at Spurn from 17th April with 23 on 8th May and 41 on 17th May. One to two passed on four dates in June, 13 in the Tees Estuary on 23rd May and one in June (ECG, TBR). Autumn passage occurred on the coast from early July to mid-September with maxima of 26 at Filey on 24th July, 34 at Grimston on 7th August, 15 at Hornsea on 24th August. Spurn had 39 on 4th August, 42 on 7th August and 33 on 2nd September as

maxima. Late birds passed at Filey on 23rd October (RHA) and Bran Sands on the 24th (GWF).

Inland, the species occurred at eight localities on 13 dates in July, August and September with no more than two birds seen together.

**154. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

One at Cherry Cob on 28th March, one at Grimston on 11th April, two at Kilnsea on 16th April and one at Mapleton on 20th April were the only coastal spring records. Inland, four at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 17th and 19th April with three on 20th and one on 25th (PJC, PAH *et al*), two near Settle on 20th April and one on 1st and 14th May (BSh). Two at Newton Ings on 1st May, two on the Lower Derwent on 1st May with one on the 9th and one at Wintersett Reservoir on 9th May (DJS).

The autumn produced one at Spurn on 17th July and ten there on 3rd September. One at Hornsea on 25th July, three on 27th and singles at five other coastal sites during July and August with six at Cherry Cob on 13th August. Nine at Skeffling on 11th December (BSP). The only autumn records inland were one near Settle on 6th July, one at Seamer Road G.P. on 10th July and one at Newton Ings on 24th August. One at Rathmell Marsh on 23rd October (FAW).

**155. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

The north Humber shore from Spurn to Goole showed maxima 'Estuary Enquiry' counts of 76 on 17th January, 118 on 28th March and from 23 to 39 from August to December (per DBC). In the Tees Estuary, 60 on 23rd May, 105 on 25th July and 270 on 22nd August were maxima (TBR). Spurn recorded southward passage offshore on several dates from 27th June to September, 13 on 29th July and 19 on 2nd September as maxima.

Inland, occurred near Settle with two from 23rd to 26 April, one staying to 1st May, at Fairburn, where three flew east on 24th April and one was present on 25th, on which date one was at Gouthwaite Reservoir. Three flew north-west over Gouthwaite Reservoir on 12th June (PJC, PAH). One was near Settle on 24th August and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd and 16th September (MLD).

**156. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

Recorded from all parts of the county from January to April and from late June to year end. One on Thorne Moor on 2nd May was the only record in that month. Single birds were mainly involved except for July and August when the main passage was recorded. Maxima reported were eight on Thorne Moor on 27th June, 15 on 25th July, 19 on 1st August, 22 on 8th August and nine on 10th September.

**157. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

Apart from the coastal areas where one to four were recorded from July to early September, the species was recorded at Thorne Moor, Wath Ings (five on 7th August), Stanley S.F., Bolton-on-Swale G.P., Fairburn, Swillington, Pool and Knostrop, mainly singly and in July and August.

**159. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

The first was at Bretton Park on 9th April (DP) with the next at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 12th (DGL). Main arrival was during the third week of April, most birds coming in on the 18th/19th. Gouthwaite Reservoir had the largest concentration with 78 on 10th July, numbers falling thereafter to no more than 16 during August. 44 at Hornsea Mere on 24th August was the maximum there. Late birds were at Knotford Nook G.P. on 24th October (MVB), and at Hornsea Mere on 30th October.

**161. Redshank *Tringa totanus***

Birds wintering inland are becoming more numerous. Reported during January and February and November and December from twelve waters with up to six birds seen together. Coastal flocks in the two estuaries were large; the maxima for the Humber being 1,700 on 7th November and the Tees had 1,148 on 19th September.

**162. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus***

Recorded from 12 inland waters mainly during May, August and September with no more than three together and single birds being usual. Up to three

occurred at several coastal localities during the same periods but some were recorded during the winter months; one at Stone Creek on 28th February, two at Cherry Cob on 28th March, one at Spurn on 13th November and one at Kilnsea on 29th-31st December.

**165. Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Widespread records from coastal and inland localities during May and from July to October with the majority occurring during August and September. One at Spurn on 7th April and one at Low Ellers Carr on 21st April were the only birds outside these months. Seven was the maximum number reported from Coatham Marsh and Spurn on 15th and 22nd August respectively.

**168. Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

One at Scaling Dam on 4th August was a new record for the county (J. Lord). Accepted by the 'BB' Rarities Committee.

**169. Knot** *Calidris canutus*

The 'Estuaries Enquiry' counts on the north shore of the Humber from Spurn to Goole showed maxima as follows: 5,290 on 17th January, 1,960 on 31st January, 4,550 on 28th February, 570 on 28th March, 25 on 29th August, 20 on 12th September (a remarkably low count), 140 on 10th October, 1,810 on 7th November and the very high total of 19,300 on 11th December (per DBC). 8,200 were in the Tees Estuary on 14th November (TBR). Inland, occurred singly at eight waters in January, April, May and from August to December with two at Deer Hill Reservoir on 25th May.

**170. Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Singles recorded at Spurn on several dates in January, February, May, August and September. Filey Brig, Bridlington and Robin Hoods Bay were the most favoured coastal localities with maxima of 60 at Filey on 20th February (FJT), 80 on 13th November and 120 on 28th December (RHA *et al*), 70 at Bridlington on 18th November (RL) and 80 at Robin Hoods Bay on 17th April (RC). The Filey and Bridlington maxima were the largest numbers ever recorded at these sites. Smaller numbers occurred at Flamborough, Jackson's Bay and South Gare.

**171. Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Only two records in spring; one near Tunstall on 5th May (AWW) and one at Birkin on 21st May (RFD). In autumn, most records came from vice-county 61 with two at Hornsea on 24th July (CM) and singles at Brough, Paull, near Kilnsea, Broomfleet Island and Filey Brig in August and September with one near Kilnsea on 2nd October and 4th and 6th November. Two were at Hornsea Mere on 29th August and three were on the coast at Hornsea on the same date with three at the Mere on the 30th. Five at East Hull Salting on 3rd September. At Spurn two on 14th August and one south offshore on 28th and 29th August. One in the Humber on 5th, 18th and 24th September. The species was present at Bran Sands, Teesmouth from 4th August to 30th September with a maximum of eight on 5th August. Three there on 2nd October and one on 25th (TBR). Inland, one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 4th and 5th September and three on 11th September (DWS *et al*), one at Farnham G.P. on 1st July (RE), one at Fairburn on 2nd September and six at Knostrop S.F. on 11th August, some remaining to the 15th.

**173. Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Singles at Scaling Dam on 20th May (DGB), Bran Sands, Teesmouth on 1st August (SCN) and at Fairburn Ings on 3rd and 4th July (CW. PTT).

**178. Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The 'Estuaries Enquiry' totals from Spurn to Goole were as follows: 13,040 on 17th January, 9,650 on 28th February, 4,340 on 28th March, 1,330 on 29th August, 2,330 on 12th September, 13,110 on 10th October, 15,050 on 7th November and 12,800 on 11th December (DBC). The Tees Estuary had from 2,000 to 5,000 from August to year end. Inland, occurred at many waters in all months with most birds from April to June and July to September, with several birds wintering. The Lower Derwent Floods had 100 to 200 during January and February (HOB).

**179. Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Very few recorded: Spurn had one on 31st July and 29th August, one flew south offshore on 7th August and two were on the Humber on 18th September.

Six at Brough on 13th August and one on 15th (SGW). Singles at Sealby Mills on 29th July (CC) and Bran Sands on 2nd October. Inland: two at Trent Falls, Ousefleet on 2nd October (FG) and one at Fairburn on 25th August.

**181. Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Coastal maxima were 360 on Bran Sands on 14th November (SCN) and 300 on Redcar Sands on 23rd October and 5th November (GWF). Spurn had up to 50 from late July to September with ca. 30 to October and 47 on 2nd November. Inland: occurred at Wintersett Reservoir, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Gouthwaite Reservoir, Knostrop S.F. and Fairburn Ings, mostly single birds but five at Fairburn on 24th October.

**184. Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Occurred at several places on the coast and inland mainly from March to May and July to September. Small numbers usually involved but 18 at Allerton Bywater on 2nd June and 17 at Knostrop on 1st September with up to six at Fairburn in July. Coastal maxima were 47 on Coatham Marsh on 25th August and 56 on the 26th (SCN) and 32 at Spurn on 24th August.

**187. Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One at Spurn on 6th November and one flying north offshore on 9th November. Two at Bridlington on 9th November (RL) and one at Filey Brig on 4th and 18th December (RHA). One in Scarborough Harbour on 6th November and a different bird there from 18th to 20th November (RHA, CC *et al.*).

**193. Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The only spring records were singles off Spurn on 8th and 9th May. Autumn passage started on 13th July and birds were observed from the main coastal watchpoints until early November. The main passage was during mid August and early September, maxima being 129 at Hornsea on 14th August and 180 on 15th, 114 at Spurn on 14th August and 160 on 31st. 62 passed south off Scarborough on 14th August and 284 flew south and 100 north at South Gare on 15th August. 163 at Spurn on 1st September and 245 on 4th. 200 off Grimston on 11th September.

**194. Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

Recorded off the coastal watchpoints from 10th July to 6th November. Maxima were 17 at Spurn on 25th September and 17 on 13th October. Ten flew south and three north off Scarborough on 14th August and 12 flew north off South Gare on same date. 13 north off South Gare on 9th November. One was picked up alive but damaged beneath wires at Stainton, near Maltby on 1st September and had to be destroyed. The skin is in the Sheffield City Museum (per THR).

**195. Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

On 14th August, the 'skua' day of the autumn, a tight bunch of five flew south off Scarborough followed later by a sixth bird (RHA). Six flew north at South Gare on the same date (SCN). One to two were seen up to 11th September from several coastal watchpoints with one at Spurn on 23rd October. Three in one party at Filey on 11th September (RHA).

**196. Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

One at South Gare on 15th August (SCN, DSS *et al.*). Three (two adults and one juvenile) flew south at Spurn on 31st August.

**197. Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea*

An immature bird at Hornsea on 1st February (WFC). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

**198. Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Coastal maxima were during July to October when Spurn had from 350 to 600 and the Tees Estuary had 3,000 on 25th July and 766 on 17th October (TBR). 200 roosted on Scaling Dam on 7th November with smaller numbers in October (JL). Occurred at inland waters in every month, mainly in winter with large numbers at some localities; 120 at Knotford Nook Tip on 2nd January (FAW), 110 at Denton on 27th November (MVB), 130 left a roost at Swillington on 28th November (JW), 1,800 on 12th December was the maximum at the Fairburn Ings roost and 500 were at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th December (JED).

**200. Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

10,000 in the Tees Estuary on 21st July (RTM). Inland, large numbers roosted at several waters with 800 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th December as maximum (JED).

**201. Common Gull *Larus canus***

6,000 in the Tees Estuary on 21st July. Up to 275 roosted at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir during the winter months (JED) and about 500 at Fairburn Ings on 27th December. A pair nested on a moorland tarn in Wharfedale and is thought to have hatched successfully (MVB).

**202. Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus***

Recorded at many coastal localities from January to May and July to December with 42 sightings during these periods. Inland, singles occurred at Knotford Nook Tip on 17th January (LGO, ESS), at Fairburn Ings on 27th February and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir where an immature was seen regularly from 11th January to 19th March and an adult there on 22nd and 26th March, and one on 24th October (JED, DWS *et al.*).

**203. Iceland Gull *Larus glaucopterus***

An adult at Hornsea Mere on 6th January (WFC) was the only record near to the coast. Two at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 10th March and one from 11th to 22nd March (ASG, JED). An immature at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 14th February (PJC, AFGW *et al.*), and two at Fairburn Ings on 27th February with single birds on 12th April, 30th October and 28th December (CW *et al.*).

**207. Little Gull *Larus minutus***

Recorded from several coastal localities; one at Scarborough on 21st March and one on 12th April (DIF, AJW); one at Hornsea Mere on 1st May and three immatures present from 12th May to 8th June (DTI); one at Spurn on 26th June and then recorded on several dates from 24th July in small numbers not exceeding four until 7th October when 96 were recorded and smaller numbers to month end. Singles were seen on 5th and 6th November. Ten were at Filey on 11th September (RHA) and 52 flew south there in four hours on 25th October (CC). Single birds were seen at five other coastal places on odd dates from July to October.

Hornsea Mere had one on 3rd July with a maximum of four during the rest of the month. Present daily during August with a daily average of 12. 56 on 16th September was a record maximum for the water. Singles were present on many dates to end of October (DTI, JHL). Bridlington had one to six birds on several dates from 2nd August to 7th September with an increase to nine on the 8th and 16 on the 10th. A few more recorded thereafter to 29th October with 12 on 27th (RL). At Scarborough recorded from 1st August to 26th October with many sightings during the period involving at least five individuals (RHA, FJT, CC). A few passed at South Gare during July.

Inland, recorded at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir with an adult on 23rd August and a juvenile on three dates from 27th August to 2nd September (JMD *et al.*). An adult at Heaton Lodge S.F. on 5th September (DLJ), an immature at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 1st May (FAW) and at Fairburn, an immature was present on most dates from 22nd April to 27th June which appeared at nearby Swillington Ings on four dates in June (CW, JW, *et al.*). Nine at Fairburn Ings on 5th May comprised of six adults and three immatures. An adult and an immature at Knotford Nook G.P. on 21st July.

**208. Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

From 1,000 to 2,000 regularly in the winter months at reservoir roosts with 10,000 at Fairburn Ings on 27th December.

**209. Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini***

An adult at Scalby Mills, Scarborough on 26th July (DIF *et al.*). An immature at Bridlington sewage outfall on 7th September (RL), an adult at South Gare on 8th September (NJ) and an adult flew north at South Gare on 9th November (SCN *et al.*).

**211. Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla***

An average of 2,240 per hour passed south off Filey Brig on 6th March and 4,000 passed south in one hour on 8th April (FJT, CC). At Spurn single figures only recorded on three dates in March and five dates in April. Large southerly

movements off Filey Brig on several dates in July. 12,900 flew north off Hornsea on 11th August (DTI) and smaller numbers (up to 2,000) flew north in one hour periods off Hornsea and Filey Brig during August. Late October and November showed large numbers passing south off Spurn and Filey with 'thousands' at Spurn on 25th October, 5,000 on 6th November and 2,200 on 9th November. At Filey on 6th November, flocks of 2-300 birds were passing all day and many thousands must have been involved (RHA). Several were recorded at inland waters with an adult at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 2nd May and a juvenile on 15th August (PB). At Wintersett Reservoir, one from 15th to 17th August (DJS, PBW). One at Fewston Reservoir on 1st July (PJC), one juvenile at Chelker Reservoir on 31st August, two adults at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 14th February (PJC, PAH) and an immature on 9th December (CM). Seven adults flew east at Fairburn Ings on 18th May and single birds were seen on 27th June and 4th December (CW *et al.*).

#### 212. Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Spring passage was recorded from several areas, both coastal and inland during 6th - 9th May. The 6th was clearly the day of arrival in the county with seven at Hornsea Mere, 18 at Fairburn Ings, and two at Gouthwaite Reservoir, with records of one to two birds during the next three days at Tunstall, Scarborough, Scaling Dam, Wintersett Reservoir, Elsecar Reservoir, Settle, Swillington Ings and Spurn.

Fairburn Ings had small numbers of birds from 22nd April through to 13th June and there was one at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 23rd April. One at Scalby Mills on 31st July and at Spurn, four flew south-east on 25th July, one east and four south-east on 30th. Hornsea Mere had one on 3rd August and from 22nd August to 4th September birds were present with maxima of eight on 30th August and 14 on 4th September (DTI). Smaller numbers were seen off several coastal watchpoints during August and September and at ten inland waters during the same period.

#### 217/218. Common/Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

The first on the coast were two at Spurn on 20th April where large numbers passed south in the evenings during the autumn viz: 426 on 7th August, 550 on 13th and 29th, 546 on 30th and 390 on 31st, 521 on 1st September, 480 on 2nd and 619 on 4th. Numbers decreased to single figures during the latter half of October and the last were singles on 1st and 2nd November.

Small numbers, up to six, occurred at several inland waters from 18th April through to September; mainly reported as 'comics' as were 40 at Wintersett Reservoir on 6th June (JSW). Small numbers of each species were specifically identified, the majority of these being *hirundo*. 25 at Swillington Ings on 9th May were reported as *hirundo* (LM).

#### 219. Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

One at Bempton on 1st June (MR), one at Spurn on 25th July and one at Scalby Mills on 5th August (CC) were the only coastal records. Inland, single birds recorded at Wintersett Reservoir on 15th May (DJS, JL) and Fairburn Ings on 17th August (CW *et al.*).

#### 222. Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Spurn recorded two on 20th April and one on 21st and 22nd. One to three almost daily in May and June with six on 30th and 31st May. In July, up to four were regular with 16 on 17th, 12 on 18th and 6 on 24th, 13 on 2nd and 3rd August and one on several dates to month end. Singles on 4th, 5th and 21st September.

One at Hornsea Mere from 6th to 8th May, where there was one on 12th August and six on 22nd (DTI). 17 flew south off Grimston on 3rd August, ten on 9th (AWW) and four on 1st September (SGW) with single birds passing between these dates. Two south off Filey Brig on 24th July and two on 21st August (DIF, RHA). Two at South Gare on 8th May, two at Scarborough on 6th August and one on 9th (CC, DIF). Three pairs nested on the Yorkshire side of the Tees Estuary.

Inland, one was at Fairburn Ings on 6th May and one on 13th June with two at nearby Swillington Ings on 12th June (JW).

#### 223. Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Four at South Gare on 6th April were the first reported (SCN) with the main

arrival taking place from 16th. Especially numerous along the coast from late July to September with 900 at Spurn on 26th July, 1,400 on 7th August, 1,350 on 13th August, 1,200 on 1st September and 1,400 on 4th. 4,000 off Hornsea on 31st August (CM), 700 south in three hours off Filey on 7th September (CC) and 2,000 in the Tees Estuary during late July and early August (SCN) as some maxima. The last was at Spurn on 30th October.

Inland, two occurred at Wintersett Reservoir on 25th April (DJS), single birds at Fairburn Ings on 15th May and 4th June with two on 26th September, two over Swinsty Reservoir on 18th August (PJC) and one at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 23rd October (DB).

#### 226. Little Auk *Alle alle*

At Spurn, birds passed north in early November with 38 on the 6th, eight on 7th, 17 on 9th and 13 on 10th. In addition 26 flew south over the Humber at Spurn on 7th November on which date 16 flew over the Humber off Broomfleet Island (DBC, ACh). Two came in with Starling flocks at Spurn on 9th November. Four flew south off Bridlington on 7th November, two on the sea and five flying south on 9th and ten north on 10th (RL). One flew north off Scarborough on 6th November and nine flew north on 10th (RHA, AJW).

One was picked up dead at Stanley, near Wakefield on 13th November (JAB) and one picked up exhausted in Leeds in November was later released at Scarborough (per R.S.P.C.A.).

#### 227. Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Many were on the breeding ledges at Bempton on 28th January (JF). On 24th July off Filey Brig about 90 birds per hour passed south all day (RHA). ca. 50 were flying around the breeding cliffs at Flamborough and a few were landing on 25th October—a very early date for site visiting, mid November being more usual (JF). Very few oiled auks were reported in welcome contrast to 1970.

#### 232. Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

As last year, the largest flocks were from near Settle with 40 on 23rd February and 40 on 30th December (BSH). 30 were at Ingbirchworth on 14th February (JED) and 30 were at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 21st February (FAW).

#### 234. Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

At Spurn, many were recorded in November with 300 on 1st, 4,000 on 7th, 400 on 19th and 300 on 20th as maxima. All were flying south. 2,000 on 1st December were in Clubley's Field. November was the time of many birds throughout the county with flocks of up to 500 reported from several areas. 305 flew south over Fairburn Ings on 7th November and 6,070 flew north from a roost over Knaresborough Ringing Station in 40 minutes on 14th November (JRM *et al.*). 1,000 flew south-west over Swillington Ings on 24th December (JW). In the early months, 1,000 at Harewood on 14th February (ECS), and 1,000 in Eccleshall Wood on the same date.

#### 235. Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

First of year was one at Melton Wood on 24th April with one near Harrogate on the 29th (PAH). 1st May saw the species at several localities. Passage at Spurn was recorded during May and June; 22 on 29th May and 52 on 30th with 26 on 27th June as peaks. 70 on telegraph wires at Kirk Sandal Common on 11th August (ML). A few birds lingered into October with the last at Ossett on the 12th (GC).

#### Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Reports state that the species continues to increase in most areas. Vice-county 65 is still very sparsely populated and only three places had birds; a pair, nine together and a single. 110 at Yearby on 18th September (GLC) was the largest concentration reported.

#### 237. Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

The main arrival was during 20th to 23rd April when birds were reported from several localities. Birds passed at Spurn from July to September with six to nine regularly during August. One there on 19th September was the last.

#### 241. Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

The status was generally as in 1970 with V.C.61 remaining unchanged. V.C.62

had only three singles reported. V.C.63; reported from 13 localities, breeding proved at four, suspected at a further five and singles from four other places. V.C.64; reported from 35 localities with breeding proved at only four. V.C.65; only one record of a single bird at Fearby on 21st December (PY).

**246. Little Owl *Athene noctua***

The status was as 1970 with many sightings of single birds throughout the county, most commonly in V.C.64. Breeding proved in only eight localities is not a true picture of the species.

**248. Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

At Spurn, one on 9th and two on 10th April, one on 27th July and 8th September and one to three seen on seven dates from October to December. One at South Gare on 26th November. A pair also bred near Sheriff Hutton. About seven pairs bred in V.C.63 with one to three birds seen at five other places.

'Several' were flushed during a shoot at Copgrove in V.C.64 on 21st January (CS). One was seen near Pool on 23rd June (PJC). Three birds were reported to have been shot from one locality in V.C.65.

**249. Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

20 pairs proved breeding on the moors of the north and west and one pair bred in V.C.61. Away from the breeding areas, widely reported during the autumn and winter months with nine near Patrington on 6th February as maximum seen together (AWW).

**252. Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus***

Reported from Skipwith and Langwith Commons but no details of numbers or breeding status. Five singing on Thorne Moor on 3rd June, six on Hatfield Moor on 4th June and one at Grenoside Wood during June. Sawley High Moor had three pairs, after the first bird on 1st June, two of which bred successfully. One was at Wharnecliffe Crags (V.C.63) on 3rd July when one also sang at Picking Gill, near the Sawley site.

**255. Swift *Apus apus***

The first were singles at Harrogate S.F. and at Wodsley on 21st April with more arriving on the 25th. General arrival was during the first week May with peak numbers from the 9th. Spurn had southerly movements during late June and July, 5,000 on 26th June being maximum. Birds were recorded in smaller numbers moving south during this same period from other coastal watchpoints. Withdrawal was recorded over Knaresborough Ringing Station from 2nd August with 602 passing south-west in one hour from 1830-1930 hours. Smaller numbers passed on the 9th, 12th and 16th with 67 on the evening of 31st and 58 on 1st September (JRM, RE *et al*). On the 17th August 'thousands' passed over Walton during the afternoon and evening (PS). One over Dunscroft on 29th October was a late bird (RAM). On the coast a few passed on several dates during September with one at Hornsea on 12th October and three at Spurn on 18th October.

**258. Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

My comments in the 1970 report apply equally to 1971 except that even more birds were seen. Recorded, mainly singly from 17 areas in V.C.61 with breeding at five places; 14 areas in V.C.62 with breeding at four, 23 areas in V.C.65, ca. 60 areas in V.C.64 with breeding proved at 13 places. In V.C.65 widespread reports from the Tees, Swale and Ure with breeding proved at one site and possibly at two others.

**259. Bee Eater *Merops apiaster***

One at Midhopestones, near Stocksbridge on 6th September (MCW). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

**261. Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

One at South Gare on 24th April (PS).

**262. Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis***

Reported from four places in V.C.61 with breeding proved at one site, 13 places in V.C.62, 21 places in V.C.63 with breeding proved at four, 27 places in V.C.64, with breeding proved at four and four in V.C.65.

**263. Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major***

Widespread reports from all parts of the county. The Y.N.U. Research

Committee survey started in 1972 on the woodpeckers should show a more exact breeding status than is known at present. One trapped at Grimston on 12th September was diagnosed as belong to the 'Northern' race *D.m. major* (AWW).

**264. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor***

In V.C.61; reported singly at Hornsea Mere in January, February and November. V.C.62; bred in Duncombe Park and near Wiggington. V.C.63; pairs seen at two sites and a single at another. V.C.64; a pair seen at West Tanfield and reported singly from 21 places, nine of these in Nidderdale. V.C.65; two pairs bred near Sedbergh and breeding suspected near Richmond.

**265. Wryneck *Jynx torquilla***

Singles at Spurn on 25th April, 2nd, 8th, 15th and 16th May and one near Patrington on 1st May (AWW). In autumn, one at Grimston on 17th August and one trapped there on 25th (AWW. SGW), one at Filey on 24th August (DIF) and at Spurn, one on 21st August then three to six birds from 23rd to 27th August and one to two from 28th August to 12th September with three on 11th September. One at South Gare on 24th October (SCN. WN).

**271. Woodlark *Lullula arborea***

One at Fairburn Ings on 18th April (PTT. CW).

**272. Skylark *Alauda arvensis***

Very few flocks noted this year; 400 on stubble at Knotford Nook on 27th February after snow cover during night was the largest number reported inland. At Spurn in October, the species passed south in large numbers on several dates; 500 on 13th, 600 on 17th, 600 on 23rd and 950 on 24th. The last five days of the month showed very heavy passage with 3,500 on 27th, 10,000 on 28th, 9,000 on 29th, 640 on 30th and 1,421 on 31st.

**273. Shorelark *Eremophila alpestris***

At Spurn, five on 4th October, three on 5th, two on 6th, and one on 23rd and 29th. From one to four on 11 dates in November and two on 12th December. 12 at Filey Brig on 30th October (RHA) after six on 25th (CC). Two at Grimston on 30th October and eight at Flamborough on 31st (AWW. HOB).

Exceptional numbers occurred in the Teesmouth area with four at South Gare on 16th October, 84 on 24th October, 28 at Redcar on same date, and 105 at South Gare and 48 at Redcar on 25th. Numbers remained high throughout November and 77 were present at South Gare on 23rd and 40 on 28th December (SCN. DSS. GWF *et al.*). One at Lower Gorpé Reservoir near the Lancashire border on 12th December was the first record for V.C.63, the furthest inland for the county and the highest altitude (JN. KS. GC. JJ. JD). One was at Fairburn Ings on 14th November.

**274. Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

The first were singles at Burley-in-Wharfedale and Knaresborough Ringing Station on 12th April. Reported from several areas between the 13th and 15th April and main arrival from 20th April. Autumn roost gatherings were small with maxima of 8,000 at Fairburn Ings on 4th September and 12,000 at Old Denaby on 6th September. Elsewhere, up to 600 occurred at a few roosts during August and September. Singles at Newmillerdam, Barnsley and Swillington on 31st October (JAB. JW), at Fairburn on 1st November and 11 at Knaresborough on 3rd November (RE) were the latest seen inland. At coastal localities birds were recorded up to late November with nine at Hornsea Mere on 1st November, one at Kirk Ella on 4th, two at Hedon on 6th, three at Easington on 14th and one at Hornsea Mere on 23rd. Spurn also had birds passing during early November with one on 14th, the last.

**275. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica***

One at Fairburn Ings on the evening of 27th April was seen again in the early morning of the 28th (CW *et al.*). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

**276. House Martin *Delichon urbica***

Singles at Hornsea on 8th and 10th April, and at Little Weighton on 13th were the first reported. Next were two at Settle, one at Harrogate, one over Sheffield and one at Ilkley S.F. on 14th. Concentrations of 120 at Fairburn on 9th June, and 260 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 19th June in cool

weather (JRM, RE). Autumn gatherings included 200 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th September as maximum reported. Spurn had birds passing south from May to October with maxima of 202 on 8th May, 100 on 1st June, 120 on 4th September, 129 on 17th September and 66 on 24th October. Late birds were four at Bridlington on 2nd November, eight at Kirk Ella on 4th, and one over Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 14th (DWS).

**277. Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

The first was one at Fairburn Ings on 30th March. Nine at Wintersett Reservoir on 7th April and four near Otley on the 8th were the next (PBW, WF). Most areas recorded their first birds from the 14th April. Fairburn Ings had a roost maximum of about 12,000 on 22nd August (CW) and there were about 1,000 in the Old Denaby roost on 6th September (HEB). Birds passed south at Spurn from May to October with maxima of 382 on 8th May, 210 on 9th May, 108 on 3rd August, 337 on 4th September with odd birds passing up to 29th October.

**278. Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

One singing near Guisborough on 23rd May (DS-S).

**279. Raven** *Corvus corax*

Nine young fledged from nests in the Sedbergh area. At one site all the young were taken and their legs cut off before being killed. At a second site, two youths were caught with two eggs already blown—a third egg was left in the nest which eventually hatched. A pair reared three young at a site in V.C.64. A party of 12 seen regularly in Arkengarthdale during January. Small numbers, up to five, reported from several other areas in the hill country of the north-west.

**280/281. Carrion Crow/Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone/cornix*

A roost in heather at Ogden in V.C.63 held 100 birds from January to March and in November (DJS). A flock of 40 at Burnt Ings Plantation on 7th November (RJR), 44 on Thorne Moor on 28th November and 80 roosting in Silver Birch trees at Newmillerdam on 26th December (PS). 50 roosted at Melton Wood during March and early April (WGD). 30 were at Swillington Ings on 7th November (JW). Spurn recorded birds passing in the early and late months with maxima of 49 on 16th April, 23 on 9th May, 23 on 29th September, 21 on 20th October and 20 on 1st November.

Hooded Crows *C.c. cornix*, were recorded at several coastal localities during January to May and October to year end with 14 at Hornsea Mere on 6th January (WFC) as maximum. Elsewhere, one to two birds were usual with a maximum of six at Spurn on 13th November. Inland, singles occurred near Leeds on 28th October, at Fairburn Ings on 19th April and 30th October, near Harrogate on 31st October, Thrybergh Reservoir on 31st October and Ogden Moor on 14th November. Two in Farndale on 10th April and singles at Guisborough in April and December.

**282. Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

On 2nd October P. J. Stead recorded "a concentration of several thousand spread right across the sky at dusk" at Wormald Green near Ripon. Such gatherings occur in open fields prior to the birds going off to roost during the winter months.

**284. Magpie** *Pica pica*

Winter roosts in V.C.63 held large numbers: 100 near Sowood on 7th February (JED), 85 at Ogden Reservoir on 14th November (DJS) and 70 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 24th December (JED). At Pool-in-Wharfedale on 24th October, 15 were seen surrounding a rabbit which ran off when the birds were disturbed. It is not known whether or not the rabbit was suffering from myxomatosis (AB).

**288. Great Tit** *Parus major*

Spurn recorded larger numbers than usual in the autumn with up to six in mid-September, eight on 29th September, up to nine in October and eight on 1st November with one to two regularly to 28th.

**289. Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

Spurn had large numbers from mid-September with 30 on 22nd, 34 on 2nd

Inland, 40 on 9th January in Bretton Park with up to 100 on several dates in February and March (GC, DP). A party of ca. 100 tits at Guise Cliff Wood near Knaresborough in late December consisted mostly of this species.

**290. Coal Tit *Parus ater***

Two at Grimston on 25th September with six on 9th October. About 75 at Hornsea Mere on 13th October was a sharp increase, only one or two being present before this (DTI). At Spurn, only one to four birds were recorded on a few dates in late September and during October. Inland, recorded in small numbers during this same period in several areas not normally holding the species.

**292. Marsh Tit *Parus palustris***

On 12th October, about 50 arrived at Hornsea Mere (DTI). Spurn did not record any during October and only singly on three dates in September.

**294. Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***

Autumn and winter flocks of up to 20 birds, with 35 at Gouthwaite Reservoir in October and 35 on Thorne Moor on 31st December as maxima, were reported from several areas.

**295. Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus***

In October, an impressive movement occurred with birds recorded at several coastal localities and at a few places inland. On 9th and 10th October, about 30 were in the Kilnsea lagoon area. Two at Broomfleet Island on the 10th, 30 on 28th and 3rd November with smaller numbers up to 20 to 22nd December (ACh). Spurn had 30 on 9th October, 19 on 10th, nine on 12th and five on 25th with three on 31st. 18 at Hornsea Mere from 20th November to year end (DTI). Four were at Trent Falls, Ousefleet on 2nd October (FG), three at Low Ellers Carr on 16th October with 15 on 17th and smaller numbers to year end (MGB, GMD, DMB *et al.*), four at Almholme on 31st October (RJR) and one at Lindley Reservoir on 3rd November (PJC).

**299. Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

At Spurn, from 12 to 22 in the last week of October and ten to 20 in the first week of October.

**301. Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***

About 60 at Fadmoor on 12th April (LS), 29 at Scaling Dam on 29th July (GLC), 17 on Ilton Moor on 17th August (PY), 15 at Adwick-le-Street on 12th September with 30 on 16th (RA), 18 on Locke Park, Redcar on 28th September and about 50 near Keighley on 26th September (DH) were the largest gatherings reported.

**302. Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***

The largest numbers in the early months were at Spurn with 300 on 1st January, 500 on 2nd and 1,000 on 3rd. This was an isolated peak movement with small numbers not exceeding ten until April when up to 50 to 80 passed with odd birds to 29th May. A few flocks of up to 400 were reported from inland localities in the early months. Knaresborough Ringing Station recorded April passage with 200 on the 13th, 140 on 14th, 150 on 16th and 110 on 17th. One at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 30th May was late.

A bedraggled, possibly injured bird was on Thorne Moor on 14th and 15th August (ML, SOK).

The first of autumn were one at Flamborough on 19th September, one at Walton Hall on 20th, seven at Stocks Reservoir on 23rd and two at South Gare on 27th when one was near Knaresborough. The main arrival was on 23rd October when thousands came in off the sea and many continued westward; 1,000 at Filey Brig (RHA), 2,623 in six hours at South Gare (GWF) and 1,200 at Spurn. During the next few days many flocks were recorded inland with 'thousands' passing down the valley at Settle and Horton on 28th October and up to 1,000 at Almholme on 31st, when there were 850 at Ilkley. Flocks of up to 500 not uncommon at several places to year end.

**304. Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

No large flocks reported during the early months. 200 at Spurn on 3rd January and 270 over Ilkley on 28th February were the maxima. Birds were recorded inland up to 28th April at Adwick-le-Street and at Spurn, one on 1st May and three on 6th.

One was at Hornsea Mere 'after storms' on 6th June (DTI). First of autumn were one off the sea at Grimston on 20th September and one at Hornsea Mere on 2nd October. 14 off the sea at Bempton on 3rd October when birds were at Flamborough. Several areas inland had birds from 4th October with heavy movement from the 15th when 600 flew over Gouthwaite Reservoir in four hours up to noon followed next day by 550 at dawn (PJC, DJS). 350 were near Burnt Yates and 750 flew south over Knaresborough Ringing Station on same date.

At Kirk Ella, on the eastern slope of the Wolds, west of Hull, 15,000 flew north-west on 13th October, 3,000 on 14th and 5,000 on 15th (SGW). 5,000 were over Hornsea Mere on 22nd October (DTI) and 1,400 came in off the sea at Filey on 23rd (RHA). Kirk Ella recorded 1,000 north-west on 25th and 2,000 on 26th (SGW). 800 flew south over Fairburn Ings on 30th October.

**307. Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

One at Digley Reservoir on 24th March was the first with the next on 30th March at Spurn and on Burley Moor. Reported from Upper Nidderdale and Settle on 1st April. A ♂ was at Fairburn Ings on 27th April, the only inland record away from the high ground. One at Hornsea Mere on 5th June (DTI) was unusual.

Inland sites were deserted by late September with the last records from Sutton Moor on 26th and two near Settle on 28th. Birds occurred on the coast in October with one to three at Spurn from 3rd to 8th, one on 12th, three on 13th and one on seven dates from 15th to 27th. Singles at Filey on 14th October and Grimston on 16th.

**308. Blackbird *Turdus merula***

Passage on the coast was recorded at Grimston when 117 were present on 8th April (AWW) and at Spurn where 60 to 112 were present between 10th and 15th. 42 were on South Gare on 10th April. The usual influx occurred during mid-October with maxima at Spurn of 500 on 16th October and 450 on 26th with 300 on 10th November. 100 flew west over Kirk Ella on 14th and on 15th October and 400 were at Grimston on 17th. 40 came in over the sea at Scalby Mills, Scarborough on 26th October (CC). Several places inland recorded large numbers during mid-October to mid-November some of which were no doubt of continental origin.

**311. Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

One at Grimston on 21st March was the first with another there on 24th. Spurn had its first on 29th March and one was at Knaresborough on 31st (AS). Birds were seen at several places on 2nd April.

Birds considered to belong to the Greenland race *O.o. leucorrhoa*, were 8 at Carnaby on 2nd May (HOB), one at Flamborough on 4th May (BSP), one at Hornsea on 11th May, one inland at Birkin on 7th May (RFD) and one near Spofforth on 23rd May (GTF).

Passage on the coast was heaviest in late August and early September with about 30 at Bempton and 36 at South Gare on 23rd August, 62 at Spurn on 27th, 35 at Flamborough on 5th September and 30 at Filey Brig on 11th. Birds were seen at several inland localities up to early October with late birds at four places on 24th and one at Skipsea on the coast on 30th October when one was also at Spurn.

**317. Stonechat *Saxicola torquata***

One to two at Spurn from January to April and from September to year end with seven on 5th October as maximum. Elsewhere on the coast, one to two were seen at six places during the same periods. One at Scaling Dam on 17th October (DSS). One at Marley S.F. on 3rd January (GWP) and two at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 28th February (PJC *et al*) were the only ones inland during the early months. After one near Ilkley on 28th September, several were recorded during

October with one at Leighton Reservoir on 1st (PJC), one near Ilkley on 3rd and 4th (MVB, FAW), one at Fairburn Ings on 16th and 17th, one at Wintersett Reservoir on 17th (PS), one on Burbage Moor on 23rd (RGH), and two at Swillington Ings on 24th (JW). One at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 6th November (DWS), two at Potteric Carr on 14th November when there were two at Almholme with three at the latter on 28th December (JP).

**318. Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

The first was at Hornsea on 10th April, after one was at Spurn on 15th, one at Ossett on 16th and odd birds up to the month end at several places with the general arrival from 1st May. Autumn passage was noted along the coast with 12 at Ravenscar on 24th August, ca. 50 at Spurn on 24th to 25th, ca. 30 at Bempton on 25th and 26th, 30 at Grimston on the 25th. Passage continued into early September with 15 at South Gare on 9th and 12 at Filey Brig on 8th and 11th, 30 at Spurn on 10th and 15 at Grimston on 18th where singles were seen on 3rd, 10th and 24th October, the last bird in the county.

**320. Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

The first were two at Spurn on 15th April with birds inland on 16th near Harrogate (GTF), 17th at Stanley S.F. 24th April produced several records on the coast with eight at Spurn and 40 at Hornsea and the species was generally distributed in the county during the last week in April. Autumn produced no large numbers except for 11th September when 45 were at Spurn and there were a 'few' at Flamborough. 12 were at South Gare on the 10th. The last inland was one at Settle on 28th September and odd birds passed on the coast up to 27th October.

**321. Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

One at Filey Brig on 3rd April (FJT), one at Kilnsea on 4th and present at Spurn from 5th where the spring maximum was seven on 19th with singles from 8th to 10th and 14th and 15th May. One to two occurred at a few other coastal places during the same period. One on 8th July at Spurn was unusual. In autumn, one to four were at Spurn from 3rd October to 1st November. Inland, one was in a Yeadon garden all day on 14th April.

**322. Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***

Four pairs bred at two localities near Doncaster. Males were singing on Hatfield and Thorne Moors on single dates in Spring. The first of the year was near Doncaster on 22nd April. One sang at Fairburn Ings, early in the morning on 28th April (JS, CW, HD *et al*). One was caught at Spurn on 23rd August and one seen at the northern end of the peninsula on 25th and 26th may have been the same bird. A bird at South Gare on 25th April was accepted as Nightingale/ Thrush Nightingale (SCN, WN, TF).

**323. Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia***

One caught at Spurn on 5th June was the second county record.

**324. Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica***

A ♀ in Locke Park, Redcar on 24th April (HM) and a ♂ on 25th (SCN). Two ♂♂ at Spurn on 14th May and one on the 15th were Red-potted, *L.s. svecica*.

A first year ♂ Red-spotted was caught at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 18th September (JRM, RE *et al*). This is the first inland record for the county and one of the very few for the whole country. (See K.R.S. report 1971 for details and photograph).

**327. Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia***

As last year, widely reported, with breeding proved at several places. The first were at Low Ellers Carr on 18th April (BMB) and at Robin Hoods Bay on 19th (RC).

**329. Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinoides***

One sang at Fairburn Ings from 8th July to early August (JDP, CW *et al*). The second county record. Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

**332. Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus***

One trapped at Hornsea Mere on 29th May was present up to 19th June (JESW, DTI, GB). The first county record. Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

333. Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The population at Hornsea Mere was estimated to be 80% down on an average year with 40% of trapped adults being re-traps from previous years (JESW). Many nests were lost due to heavy rain during mid-June and mid-August but a good breeding season reported nevertheless. 650 pairs reported to have fledged 2,600 young but no details of methods used to arrive at these figures was forthcoming (DTI). The last bird was on 18th October (DTI). Elsewhere the species occurred normally in its usual main breeding haunts at Fairburn, Swillington and in the south of the county with some birds recorded on passage in non-breeding areas.

334. Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

One was in full song at Spurn on 12th June.

337. Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Singles at Fairburn Ings on 19th April and Low Ellers Carr on 21st April were ahead of the main arrival during the first week of May. At Hornsea Mere the breeding population was estimated to be 40% down on an average year with 20% of adults caught being re-traps from previous years (JESW). 250 pairs are estimated to have fledged 1,000 young (DTI). Late birds were at Fairburn Ings on 7th October, Kilnsea Lagoons on 9th and Hornsea Mere on 10th.

340. Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One singing at Spurn on 24th and 26th May. Eight on 24th August was a record number for one day on the peninsula with two remaining on the 25th.

343. Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Several observers reported a high population compared with previous years. This was confirmed by trapping figures at Knaresborough Ringing Station where 50 were ringed from July to September and at Spurn where there was a record period from 27th September to 4th November and 246 were ringed during the year. A few birds still passed up to the end of November with one on 16th December. Elsewhere on the coast from one to five birds were recorded at several places up to 17th October and inland one was at Fairburn on 7th October and one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th. A ♀ was at Bretton Park on 7th November (JED). A ♀ at Ewden Reservoir on 20th (RGH), a ♂ at Eccup Reservoir on 17th October and 15th November and a ♂ at Ben Rhydding on 31st October (MUB). A ♂ was at Ilkley during January and presumably the same bird reappeared in the same garden on 17th December and was seen daily to year end (MMK). A ♀ was at Scarborough on 30th December (CC).

344. Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Spurn had record numbers with one on 19th, 20th and 22nd August, seven on the 24th and one on 25th, 26th and 28th August. One to two on eight dates in September with two on 15th October, one remaining until 18th and the other until 24th. One was at Grimston on 25th August (AWW) and one at South Gare on 10th September (SCN, WIB).

346. Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The first recorded was at Horbury on 11th April whereafter very few were noted until the first week of May when the main arrival occurred. In the autumn, birds were recorded inland up to the 25th September with one caught at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 17th October an isolated late bird. At Spurn singles were recorded on 24th, 25th, 27th and 28th October and on 10th November.

347. Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first birds arrived from 23rd to 25th April when the species was recorded at Spurn, Grimston, Knaresborough, Blaxton, Melton Wood and Royd Moor. Reports suggest that the population is still below normal but care must be taken not to compare it with that of 1968 when numbers were exceptionally high before the crash.

Most inland localities were clear of birds by mid-September, late birds being at Walton Hall and Potteric Carr on 25th and at Swillington on 26th. Spurn had one on 1st October, two on 2nd and one on 3rd.

348. Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

General impressions and ringing figures suggest that this species is becoming more numerous than formerly. After one at Wintersett Reservoir on 21st April and two at Fairburn Ings on the 22nd, the species was recorded at many localities on the 25th.

A few remained at inland places up to 26th September with one at Fairburn Ings on 7th October. One at Spurn from 28th to 30th October was caught and considered to belong to the race *S.c. blythi*.

354. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first influx occurred from 11th April when birds were seen at several localities both coastal and inland. Birds showing the characters of the 'Northern' form *P.t. acrecola* were caught at Adwick-le-Street on 16th April (RA *et al*) and at Spurn on 4th May.

355. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One caught at Spurn on 8th September was still present on the 9th. It was considered to belong to the race *P.t. viridianus*.

356. Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

One sang in the Harrogate Pinewoods on 19th February (PAH). One was at Potteric Carr on 1st April after which the species was reported from several localities from the 3rd with the main arrival on the 11th.

One was at Hornsea Mere on 1st January (GED). Unspecified *phylloscopus* warblers, most probably Chiffchaff were seen at Bankfoot, Nr. Bradford on 10th January (IAH), and at Adwick-le-Street from 23rd January to 13th February (RA *et al*). One caught at Spurn on 10th November was considered to belong to the race *P.c. tristis*.

A few birds were seen occasionally in song up to 5th October with singles at Spurn on several dates to end of October.

357. Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Return to breeding areas near Grantley by 25th April (PJC) and near Ilkley on 26th (FAW). Spurn had two on 7th May and singles on 8th and 15th May. In August, two were at Spurn on 23rd when one was at Bempton and two were in Locke Park, Redcar. On the 24th, three were at Spurn and one at Hornsea Mere. In woodland near Doncaster, six singing ♂♂ stayed throughout the summer and five pairs probably bred; a most unusual occurrence for the district (per RJR).

360. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

One at South Gare on 27th September (SCN. DWW. WN).

361. Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

One at Spurn on 26th October.

364. Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Up to 200 were in Grimston Wood during early September (AWW) and Spurn had the usual immigration with small numbers during September and early October with an increase to 225 on 26th October and 150 on 29th, numbers falling to single figures by 8th November. The species was recorded as more numerous than usual in autumn from several areas inland. 50 at Wintersett Reservoir on 10th October being the maximum number counted.

365. Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

One in Locke Park, Redcar on 25th April (SCN *et al*). Spurn recorded more than ever before with singles on 11th and 23rd and 24th September, one to six from 26th to 31st October and one on 3rd and 6th November.

366. Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first were at Knaresborough and Farnley Park on 1st May with the first main arrival taking place on the 7th when birds were reported from several areas. In autumn, inland areas were deserted by the third week in September,

three at Potteric Carr on 26th being the last. Spurn had two on 28th September and singles on 2nd and 3rd October.

**368. Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

The first was one at Spurn on 19th April with three on the 24th. Inland, the species arrived at five different localities on the 25th.

Passage at Spurn occurred daily from 18th August to 18th September with 300 on 24th August as maximum. Up to 60 occurred on several dates during this period. Up to three were recorded during late September and on three dates up to 5th October with one on 24th October. Other coastal watchpoints recorded smaller numbers during August and September with 50 at Flamborough Head on 11th September the maximum (AFGW).

**370. Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

One near Hessle on 9th September (WRS). At Spurn, one on 27th September, two on 28th one of which remained to 30th, and one on 2nd October.

**371. Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

A considerable increase in numbers at Spurn on 3rd September. 24 flew north at the 'narrow neck' on the morning of the 25th September when there was much calling from birds at the 'point'. At Knaresborough Ringing Station an obvious increase took place in late September and birds were observed flying around very high over the area on the 22nd and 30th and on 1st and 2nd October. 29 new birds were trapped during the period 19th September to 5th October. At Swillington Ings, ca. 20 during early October increased to ca. 100 by 31st with 80 on 7th November (JW).

**373. Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

The usual autumn passage occurred on the coast with the largest numbers passing during mid-September. At Grimston 2,270 flew south on 19th September. 3,076 flew south at Spurn on 17th with 1,900 on 18th and 19th with smaller numbers up to mid-October.

Reports of winter concentrations inland were few; small numbers at Settle and 160 at Harrogate S.F. (South), near Spofforth, on 8th February (PJC) and at Harrogate S.F. (N). 50 during January/February with 100 on 26th December and 150 on 28th (I. and JH).

**374. Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae***

One at Spurn on 14th October.

**375. Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris***

One at Spurn from 10th to 12th June was caught on the latter date.

**376. Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

One at South Gare on 10th April was the first with birds at Treeton Reservoir and Broomhead Reservoir on the 14th. Main arrival was during the period 18th to 20th April. Inland areas were deserted during the second week of September but odd birds passed on the coast up to the month end and Spurn had two on 8th October after four on the 5th and one on the 6th.

**379. Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta***

Southward passage occurred at Spurn in October with birds moving on several dates. Maxima were 22 on 3rd, 30 on 9th, 29 on 24th and 28 on 31st. Inland, two at Wintersett Reservoir on 4th April (DJS), one at Almholme from 3rd October to 24th November (JP) and at Fairburn Ings where there were two on 7th October and singles on 17th and 30th October and 28th November. Birds showing characters of *A.s. spinoletta* occurred singly at Treeton Reservoir on 10th April (RGH) and Warmworth S.F. on 31st October (RA *et al*).

**380. Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

Several autumn roosts of up to 200 birds reported. At Sandall Beat a roost of 150 on 7th August increased to 600 in October with 300 remaining by 23rd December (BMB *et al*). Records of birds showing characters of *M.a. alba* were

too numerous to detail with reports from 18 coastal and inland localities from 7th April to 8th May with ca. 50 birds involved. One was at Spurn on 31st August and one at Hornsea Mere on 14th October (DTI).

**381. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Records still show increasing numbers. In the Doncaster area R.J.R. states that the number of reports received was double that for 1970.

**382. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

The first was reported from Stanley S.F. on 12th April with the main arrival taking place from the 15th to the 18th. A few lingered at inland localities up to the end of September with a late bird at Almholme on 10th October (RJR) when one was at Spurn.

Birds showing characters of *M.f. flava* were: one at Wintersett Reservoir on 6th June (DJS), one caught at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd July (JRM. RE) and two at Fairburn Ings on 26th August.

**383. Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus***

After the large numbers in late 1970, the species was well recorded into 1971. Many parties of up to 20 birds were reported from all parts of the county up to mid-April with a late bird at Harrogate on 13th May (AFGW). The only flocks exceeding 20 were 40 at Fartown on 3rd January (JED), 30 at Marsh on 5th and 6th January (JED) and 53 at Thornton Lodge on 8th January (JED). At the year end, small numbers, not exceeding ten except for 16 at Kirk Ella on 21st December, occurred at several places from the second week of November.

**384. Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor***

An exceptionally good year for the species with records coming from 23 localities up to mid-April and from 16 localities at the year end from mid-October. Single birds usually involved but two seen together at a few places.

**388. Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio***

One at Hornsea Mere on 6th May (DTI) and single ♂♂ at Spurn on 12th, 21st and 22nd, and a ♀ on 23rd and 26th May.

In autumn, small numbers, usually singly, passed along the coast mainly between 24th and 28th August at Filey Brig, Grimston and Kilnsea with six at Spurn on 24th and four at Rudston on 26th as maxima. One to two birds were recorded at the same localities and at South Gare on several dates up to 17th September.

**389. Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

Large numbers were seen at Spurn during October with 10,000 flying south on 16th and 25th and 11,000 on 26th. Birds on the last two dates were seen coming in over the sea as were 4,000 on 10th November. 12,000 roosted at the Point on 18th December. Large roost flights and assemblies involving spectacular numbers were reported from several localities inland during the winter months.

**391. Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

One at Hessle on 20th October (WBS) and one at Spurn on 9th May were the only records from V.C.61. Reported from only two localities in V.C.62; one at Hutton Gate on 2nd October (DSS) and two at Lovell Hill on 12th December (TF). V.C.63: one at Cressland Moor on 31st March (MLD), two near Bawtry on 4th April (RAF), one pair bred in the Went Valley (JDP) and one to three were present in Melton Wood in June and July (DC. JC). V.C.64 had most records as usual with one near Knaresborough on 3rd January, one at Gopgrove on 13th March (RE), a flock of up to 16 feeding on beech mast at Knaresborough in February and March (PVI) and one to two at nearby sites in October and December. One in Harrogate Pinewoods on 20th July (PAH) and at Studley Park, the county stronghold of the species, there were 24 at the end of December (FS. FRC). Two were at Fairburn Ings almost daily from 12th March to 18th May and one on 12th December. V.C.65 had seven near Eastby Abbey on 8th March (KB), one near Leyburn on 7th April (BWF), a pair at Aysgarth on 6th May

(DTM), one dead in Swinton Park on 16th May (RFD) and breeding proved near Richmond (BWF).

**392. Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris***

Several flocks of up to 200 reported from several localities both from roosts and feeding areas mainly during the winter. About 1,000 were on Coatham Marsh, Redcar on 10th January (DWW) and Spurn had 800 from 1st to 6th January. About 1,000 were estimated at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir from 8th to 17th March (per JED). Melton Wood had a regular winter roost which held c. 500 on 25th March and 15th December. 400 roosted on Thorne Moor on 31st December (SLJ).

**393. Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

Flocks of 20 to 30 birds were reported from many areas during January to April and August to year end. 45 at Lindley Reservoir on 16th January (FAW), about 40 at Ben Rhydding from 8th to 14th September (MVB), 60 near Knaresborough in early September (PVI) and 64 at Almholme on 14th September (ML) were maxima. At Spurn, southward passage occurred in spring and autumn: 378 on 8th May and 200 on 9th were heaviest movements in spring. In September treble figures passed south on six dates with maxima of 248 on 18th and 686 on 20th. Smaller numbers passed on many other dates from September to November.

**394. Siskin *Carduelis spinus***

Many more than during the corresponding period in 1970 were recorded in the early months. 100 to 200 at Lindley Reservoir during January to March (PJC, FAW), 60 at Broomhead Reservoir on 10th January increased to 120 by 7th March (JIM), 60 at Gouthwaite Reservoir on 14th January, 200 at Bakers Warren, near Scarborough on 1st and 7th March, many of which were singing (RHA, AJW) and 200 going to roost at Hornsea Mere on 26th March (DTI). At the year end several flocks of up to 40 birds reported from many areas with 60 at Hornsea Mere on 4th December. At Spurn the peak of autumn movement occurred on 1st November when 146 flew south and seven came in over the sea. 49 passed on the 2nd and 79 on the 8th.

**396. Twite *Carduelis flavirostris***

Reports from the breeding moors in the south-west of the county suggest an increase in the population. A flock of 100 on Burbage Moor during October and early November and 100 on Keighley Moor on 1st October (DH), 40 at Malham Tarn on 23rd October (MUB) and smaller flocks at several other moorland localities. Away from the high ground one to two were seen at Spurn in January, April and May and from September to November with six on 24th and 31st October as maxima, ten at Kilnsea on 9th October, one at Tunstall on 24th March, one at Fairburn Ings on 28th November, and four at Harrogate S.F. on 28th December. Breeding was proved for the first time in Nidderdale when a family party of five was located on 25th June (GPR).

**397. Redpoll *Carduelis flammea***

Flocks of up to 100 reported from several areas mainly during March/April and September/October. Flocks well in excess of 100 were 200 at Settle on 28th September (BSh), 300 near Knaresborough on 23rd November (PVI) and 170 at Gouthwaite Reservoir in December (PJC). A bird at Spurn on 6th March was showing characters of *C.f. flammea*.

**400. Serin *Serinus serinus***

One at Spurn on 9th May (BRS).

**401. Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

The largest flock reported was 25 at Bramhope on 20th December but there were several flocks of 10 to 20 birds reported. One caught at Spurn on 11th November was of the type race *P.p. pyrrhula* with a wing length of 94 mm.

**404. Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

One at Hornsea Mere on 16th January (WFC). One pair at Lovell Hill on 1st May (SCN), 14 in Cropton Forest on 31st May (DB), two at Levisham on 6th June (AJW), one at Wyming Brook on 27th July (RGH), one at Fairburn Ings on

5th September and three on 19th (CW *et al*), four near Langsett Reservoir on 14th November and eight on 5th December (MT. PBW), four at Langthwaite on 12th December (GEA) and four at Stang Forest on 20th December (VFB). At Spurn on 12th October 20 flew south from the Point and a party of four remained.

**407. Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

More flocks were reported than in 1970 with 100 to 200 recorded from seven widely separated localities. Smaller flocks of 30 to 60 were fairly numerous. 250 at Stocks Reservoir on 20th November (MVB).

**408. Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

In contrast to last year, 1971 was a good year for Brambling. Coastal localities were not favoured but some spectacular flocks occurred inland. Many gatherings of up to 50 birds were reported and several larger ones; 100 in Beckett Park, Leeds during March, 150 in Hookstone Wood, Harrogate in early February (SMD), 150 near Scarborough in February (WC) and 700 at Wroot on 21st November which fluctuated between 300 and 600 to year end (JP. BMB *et al*).

**409. Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Despite the occasional large flocks, records are still fairly sparse, especially from V.C.62. 120 at Haw Park on 17th January (JSA), 100 on Thorne Moor on 12th September (ML), and 200 at Brotherton Ings during February were the only flocks of note.

**410. Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*

Spurn had the largest numbers with 200 - 300 on the Humber shore from 3rd to 6th January and smaller numbers, up to 80, at the year end. Smaller flocks of 35 were at Coatham Marsh, Redcar on 13th February, 30 at Brompton on 28th February, 50 at Queen Mary's Dubbs, near Ripon on 9th April and smaller flocks at Leathley and Coseby Valley.

**411. Orltolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

One at Hutton Lowercross, near Guisborough on 2nd October (DSS).

**412. Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

150 on Thorne Moor on 3rd October (CW). Concentrations of up to 100 at Fairburn and Swillington Ings in spring and summer.

**413. Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Spurn had one on 1st and 5th January and on 12th, 15th and 26th September, one on 3rd and 14th October with two on 21st, four on 23rd and two on 29th and 31st. One on 1st, 4th and 28th November. One at Redcar on 3rd January (TF), two on Coatham Sands on 22nd February (LS), one at Skipsea on 23rd October, one at Redcar on 24th October, two on 27th November and seven on 5th December (SCN *et al*). Singles at South Gare on 24th October and Bran Sands on 28th November. Ten at Flamborough on 31st October and one on 14th November.

**414. Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Reported from many coastal localities, January to April and September to year end, usually in small numbers but 70 at Filey Brig on 30th October, 70 at Spurn on 11th December, and 160 at South Gare on 22nd December as maxima. Inland: V.C.63; one at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 26th November (JED) and one at Cupwith Reservoir on 27th November (JED. MLD). V.C.64; two on Ingleborough on 13th February (IAH. GSH), two on Otley Chevin on 14th January and two present at Fairburn Ings from 3rd January to 12th March. Flock of 15 on 11th January and two to four on several dates during January and February on Hawksworth Moor area (FAW). V.C.65; six at Hargate Head on 4th February, one at Fleet Moss on 17th December, one on Whitside Moor on 31st December, one on Buttertubs Pass on 24th December (DTM) and one at Roundhill Reservoir on 27th November (FAW). On 14th March, one sang for five minutes as it perched on a fence at Redcar (WN. PK).

**415. Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Many large flocks were reported during the winter months: 100 at Stanley S.F. on 14th February (JSA), 200 on Hatfield Moor on 21st March (RAM), 200

at Esholt S.F. on 31st March (PME), 130 at Bradley on 26th April (DS), 250 at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on 20th August (FJR), 200 at Wroot on 28th November (JP), 200 at Melton Wood on 4th December (DC), 120 at Swillington Ings during December (JW), 150 at Eccup during December and 200 at Otley S.F. on 26th November (ML).

The following species also occurred in the County during 1971.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*; **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*; **Partridge** *Perdix perdix*; **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*; **Woodcock** *Scalopax rusticola*; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*; **Razorbill** *Alca torda*; **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*; **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*; **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*; **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*; **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*; **Willow Tit** *Parus atricapilla*; **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*; **Tree Creeper** *Certhia familiaris*; **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*; **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*; **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*; **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*; **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*; **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*.

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